



WING BEAT NEWS

Northern California Edition



WHERE CAN I HUNT PHEASANTS AND/OR WATERFOWL?

FALL
2005



Pheasant populations do well when grassy or weedy vegetation in fallow fields, ditch banks and other non-farmed areas is preserved for nesting and brood cover. Planting of vetch and other cover crops on idle farm land is beneficial to pheasants and other wildlife species. Corn stubble, grain straw, and other crop residues left in the fields over winter provide critical food and cover for pheasants and other wildlife. Cleaning only one side of a ditch leaves critical habitat for wildlife. Planting of perennial vegetation on levees, road corridors, field borders or other non-farmed areas will produce more pheasants.

The 2005 general statewide pheasant season is November 12, 2005 through December 25, 2005. Only male pheasants may be taken as follows: Two male pheasants per day for the first two days of the season and three male pheasants per day thereafter. Hunters may possess four male pheasants on the second day and six male pheasants on and after the third day of the hunting season. The shooting hours for pheasants shall be 8:00 a.m. to sunset.

In general, the Sacramento Valley pheasant brood survival was average to above average where habitat is present because of the wetter than usual spring. Hunting prospects are above average in most locations.

Suggestion -
Have a pen/
marker ready
when reading
this
publication
to mark those
articles of
interest to
you!

For landowners and land managers – So you want to grow more pheasants. Many people have noted that good annual crops of pheasants here in our Central Valley Mediterranean climate are generally produced by unusually late, wet springs or localized flooding. We now realize that plentiful and timely rainfall spreading moisture over wide areas creates brood cover with high numbers of insects. Brood cover mixed with nesting cover creates a plentiful food supply for the pheasant chicks. **The techniques for emulating Mother Nature are described in the 28 page 2002 Pheasant Workshop Summary Transactions. The same info is available in a 3 page article by Chad A. Fien in the Summer 2005 TRACKS magazine. If you would like a free copy of either, please call wildlife biologist Dale Whitmore at (530) 743-5068.**

GAMEBIRD HERITAGE HUNTS – JUNIOR, WOMEN'S, FAMILY, AND WILD BIRD PHEASANT HUNTS – See articles in this edition.

LICENSED GAME BIRD CLUBS

Licensed game bird clubs are private areas where released game birds are hunted. Some offer daily or multiple-bird hunting opportunities. There are Zone A and Zone B Clubs. Both hens and roosters are legal to hunt.

There are 2 basic options used in operating a Private Licensed Game Bird Club: 1) the Scheduled Field Method or 2) the Free Roaming System. The Scheduled Field Method often requires a call ahead and a request for a certain number of birds in your own field. Your card may be pre-punched for the number of birds you requested. The Free Roaming System is more flexible for the hunter in that their cards are punched only with the number of birds they actually take home. The hunter must be very ethical, not pass up hens and make every effort to retrieve slightly crippled pheasants or the price per bird may be higher under either system.

The following Zone A clubs are located in the Central Valley. The Zone A shooting season for pheasants shall commence on the Saturday nearest the 15th of October and extend for 114 consecutive days. For other domestically reared game birds (usually chukar and bobwhite quail), the Zone A shooting season begins on September 1 and ends on March 31 of the following year. Please contact the clubs for specifics about their operation.

CCF Hunting Club, 4229 Kathy Lane, Chico, CA 95973, 530 894-5555

Gaines Afton Ranch, PO Box 132, Durham, CA 95938, 530 882-4607.

H & H Gun Club, 3971 Keefer Road, Chico, CA 95973, 530 892-2582.

Wing Beat News is an informational publication only; it is not designed as a substitute for the regulation books.

Bird Valley Sportsmen Preserve, PO Box 848, Knights Landing, CA 95645, 530 735-6217. Fax (530) 735-6363

Wyman Creek Pheasant Club, 320 Middle Honcut Road, Oroville, CA 95965, 530 846-0428.

Salt Creek Pheasant Club, PO Box 187, Williams CA 95987, 530 473-2333.

Dunnigan Pheasant Club, P.O. Box 200, Zamora, CA 95698, 530 662-0454.

Live Oak Gun Club, 421 Del Norte Ave., Yuba City, CA 95991, 530 671-5858.

South Butte Game Bird Club, P.O. Box 572, Sutter, CA 95982, 530 674-1064.

Garcia's Pheasant Club, 3121 Humphrey Road, Loomis, CA 95650, 916 652-2395

Lakeview Farms Inc., 5490 Riosa Road West, Lincoln, CA 95648, 530 633-9112, 916 645-9117,
LAKEVIEWFARMS@PRODIGY.COM.

Yankee Slough Hunt Club Inc., 3805 Hwy 65, Lincoln, CA 95648, 916 645-6028, FAX 916 645-1617.

Barsetti Hunt Club, 28568 N. Cherokee Lane, Galt, CA 95632, 209 368-6150.

Birds Limited, P.O. Box 646, Cool, CA 95614, 530 823-9310

Cahoon Pheasant Club, 31249 E. Combs Road, Escalon, CA 95320, 209 838-6085.

Big Valley Hunting Club, 13581 Canada Street, La Grange, CA 95329, 209 563-0047.

Pheasant Valley Hunting Club, 4240 Carter Road, Farmington, CA 95230, 209 886-5109.

Stevinson Sportsman's Club, 26166 West Kelly Road, P.O.Box 818, Newman, CA 95360, (209) 667-0483 or (209) 634-4908,
www.stevinsonsport.com.

The following Zone B clubs are located throughout California, other than the Central Valley. The Zone B shooting season shall commence on September 1 and close May 31. Please contact the clubs individually for the specifics of their operation.

Moore Hunt Club, PO Box 57, Lookout, CA 96054, (60 miles W of Alturas), 530 294-5586.

Red Bank Ale & Quail, PO Box 8295, Red Bluff, CA 96080, 530 529-9435, FAX 530 529-9627.

Romero Ranch Hunt Club, PO Box 517, Likely, CA 96116, 530 233-4938.

Dash Ranch, 12999 Oak Run Road, Oak Run, CA 96069, 530 472-3145.

Rising Sun Hunt Preserve, 8300 Holzhauser Road, Dorris, CA 96023, 530 397-3621.

Sky Mountain Game Bird Club, 6931 Andrews Road, Dorris, CA 96023, 530 397-2235.

Lane's Valley Hunting Club, 300-20 Moulton Loop, Paynes Creek, CA 96075, (530) 597-2218.

Clear Creek Sports Club, 5714 Anita Road, Chico, CA 95973, 530 343-3364.

Birds Landing Hunt Preserve, PO Box 5, Birds Landing, CA 94512, 707 374-5092.

Black Point Sports Club, 7711 Lakeville Hwy, Petaluma, CA 94954, 707 763-0076.

Garcia's Hunting Preserve (Yolo County), P.O. Box 1257, Loomis, CA 95650, 916 652-2395.

Hastings Island Hunting Preserve, 7758 Hastings Island Road, Rio Vista, CA 94571-1026, 707 678-3325, FAX 707 678-1604.

North Branch Hunting Preserve, 3387 Highway 12, San Andreas, CA 95249, 209 754-4903.

Potter Valley Sportsmen, 6950 Hwy 20, Ukiah, CA 95482, 707 485-5188.

Suisun Marsh Hunting Preserve, PO Box 698, Fairfield, CA 94533, 707 425-4158.

Thunderhill Pheasant Club, 5150 Highway 162, Willows, CA 95988, 530 934-2146.

Comanche Hills Hunting Preserve, Inc., 2951 Curran Road, Ione, CA 95640, 209 763-5270.

COMMUNITY PHEASANT HUNTING AREAS

These hunting co-operatives are usually operated as a fund raiser for community projects. Most operate only during the pheasant season, and all Fish and Game regulations apply. Pen raised pheasants augment the natural populations on these private lands. Hunters pay a nominal fee (usually \$75-140). Members receive a map of the available lands and there are usually no field assignments or check in/out requirements. You just go hunting!

Glenn Pheasant Association, Kathy Withrow, PO Box 6, Glenn, CA 95943, (530) 934-3606

Willows Pheasant Association, Julie Holvik, PO Box 306, Willows, CA 95988 (530) 934-3695

Willows Elks Pheasant Club, 150 South Shasta St. Willows, CA 95988 (530) 934-4321

Richvale Hunting Area, PO Box 96, Richvale, CA 95974 (530) 882-4263

Yolo Sportsmen's Association, PO Box 82, Woodland CA 95776 (530) 662-2349

Knights Landing Sportsmen's Club, Inc, PO Box 547, Knights Landing, CA 95645 (530) 662-3372

Meridian Pheasant Association, Tom Teesdale, PO Box 305, Meridian, CA 95957 (530) 696-2539

Friends of Clarksburg Youth, Kathy Merwin, PO Box 66, Clarksburg, CA 95612 (916) 744-1376

Stockton Sportsmen's Club, PO Box 1364, Stockton, CA 95201 (209) 957-9717. The check station is about 6 miles south of the Highway 120 bypass between Highway 99 and I-5. Take Airport Road for 5 miles south of Hwy 120 and turn right for $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to 3455 McMullin Road. Hunting is available on Saturdays, Sundays, Wednesdays and Thanksgiving between November 13 and December 3, 2005. Cost is \$25 for adults and \$10 per junior hunter for 2 birds. There is a special hunt on Dec 4 when you can buy a 6 pheasant/chukar ticket plus lunch for \$85.00.

FEE FOR ACCESS CLUBS - These clubs offer sportsmen access to a wide variety of land for all types of hunting. Usually you will find low hunter density on exclusive land that is accessible only through reservations. Depending on the club, hunting opportunities can include bird, waterfowl, and big game hunting.

Butte City Hunting Club, 1559 County Road Z, Butte City, CA 95920, 530 982-0234.

Golden Ram, Inc. Sportsmen's Club, 321 Endless Court, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762, (916) 941-7880, FAX (916) 941-7868, info@GoldenRamHunting.com

Richmond Hunting Club, PO Box 20786, El Sobrante, CA 94820-0786, (510) 741-8055.

Wilderness Unlimited, 20974 Corsair Blvd., Hayward, CA 94545, 510 785-4868.

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TYPE A WILDLIFE AREAS AND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

Commonly asked questions about how I get access to the Type A state wildlife areas and federal wildlife refuges for pheasant or waterfowl hunting?

How do I apply for a reservation? Official applications are available to the public through license agents and department offices. Applicants can purchase either a \$1.30 application card or a \$6.55 application card to apply for either 1 hunt day or 5 hunt days, or may apply for every available Saturday, Sunday, and/or Wednesday hunt date for one or more areas by completing a season-long application card and returning it with the appropriate payment to the License and Revenue Branch. To be included in the drawing, the completed application must be received in the License and Revenue Branch, 3211 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95816, or at the address indicated on the application at least 17 days before the hunt date requested.

Hunters may apply for a reservation as many times per season as desired but no more than once for each area for each shoot day. A reservation shall assure entry for up to six people including the person in whose name the reservation was issued. No more than two persons may be hunters who have adult licenses. **Each person who is at least 18 years of age may be accompanied by up to two hunters holding junior hunting licenses or two non-shooters or one of each.** Northern California exceptions: At the Sacramento and Delevan National Wildlife Refuges, each reservation assures entry for up to four individuals, whether adult hunters, junior hunters, or non-shooters. Numbered reservations will be honored in numerical order, starting at the time the check station opens.

How can I hunt one of the Type A state wildlife areas and federal wildlife refuges if I do not have a reservation? The Type A refuges and wildlife areas are operated with the following 3 basic procedures:

1. Lottery Drawing for First-come, first-served list - Sacramento, Delevan, and Colusa NWR's, Upper Butte Basin WA (Little Dry Creek Unit), and Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area - Hunters without reservations may register at the checking station between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. for a drawing. The drawing will be held at 8:00 PM on the evening (Tues., Fri., and Sat.) before each hunt day. The results of the drawing will establish the order of sale of entry permits to fill existing vacancies in the hunter quota. Non-reservation hunters arriving after 8:00 PM will be assigned a first-come, first-served number. Overnight parking is allowed, but not required, at all check stations except Yolo Bypass WA where overnight parking is not allowed. *Exception - Yolo Bypass WA - Hunters without reservations may register at the area headquarters 2 miles west of the hunter check station on County Road 32-B (Chiles Road) between 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM on Tuesday and Friday before each hunt day to participate in a lottery drawing that will be held at 6:00 PM. On Saturday afternoon the lottery is held at the check station at 6 p.m.*

2. First-come, first serve line - Gray Lodge WA, Upper Butte Basin WA (Howard Slough and Llano Seco Units) and Sutter NWR - Hunters without a reservation may obtain a first-come, first-served number starting at 4:00 PM the day before the hunt except for the Howard Slough Unit, the Llano Seco Unit and Sutter NWR where the first-come, first serve line is established at 6 p.m. *Note: At Gray Lodge only; after receiving your first come, first served number you must remain in the parking lot.

3. First-come, first-serve line at Grizzly Island WA – Hunters may arrive at any time for the first-come, first-serve line. Reservations are also taken in order of their arrival rather than the number on the reservation.

Can I use lead shot to hunt pheasants at the Type A areas - At Grizzly Island WA; Sacramento, Delevan, Colusa, and Sutter NWR's only steel or other nontoxic shot approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may be used or possessed in the field. Gray Lodge, Yolo Bypass, and Upper Butte Basin WA's allow the use of lead shot if you are hunting pheasants ONLY.

Special pheasant hunts at Colusa, Delevan, and Sacramento NWR on the first Monday of pheasant season. Hunt reservations will not be issued for the first Monday of pheasant season when only pheasant may be hunted. Hunters may register for a drawing on Sunday between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. A drawing will be held at 4:00 p.m. to establish order of entry.

Sutter National Wildlife Refuge - Hunter capacity is 70 - Pheasant hunting is on waterfowl shoot days during the pheasant season. For info call 530 934-2801. Location and Access - Area is twelve miles southwest of Yuba City. From Yuba City travel south on Highway 99 for 6 miles to Oswald Road, turn west, proceed for 5 1/2 miles to the check station. Reservations: Available during the waterfowl season and pheasant season. Check Station: During the waterfowl season the check station will open at least two hours before shooting time. *Reservations must be presented at the check station one hour before waterfowl shooting time.*

Colusa National Wildlife Refuge - Hunter capacity is 54 free roam plus 26 adults in eight assigned ponds. **Pheasant hunting is on the first Monday of pheasant season and on waterfowl shoot days during the pheasant season.** For info call 530 934-2801. Location and Access: Check Station Location located on Ware Road between Ohm and Lone Star Roads approximately five miles east of Williams. Traveling on Interstate 5, turn east 2 miles south of Williams on Husted Road, proceed north one mile to Able Road, then right or east three miles to Lone Star Road, then right or south two miles to Ware Road. Turn left or east for 1 1/2 miles to the check station. Traveling on Hwy 20, turn south about 4 miles west of Colusa or about 5 miles east of I-5 onto Lone Star Road, then 5 1/2 miles south to Ware Road. Turn left or east for 1 1/2 miles to the checking station. Reservations: Available during the waterfowl and pheasant season. Check Station: During waterfowl season the check station will be open at least two hours before shooting time. *Reservations must be presented at the check station by one hour before waterfowl shooting time.* Lottery Drawing for first-come, first-served list. **First Monday** - No reservations will be issued for the first Monday of the pheasant season when only pheasants may be hunted. Hunters may register for a drawing on Sunday between 9:00AM and 4:00 PM. A drawing will be held on Sunday at 4:00 PM to establish order of entry. Lottery procedures will be followed.

Delevan National Wildlife Refuge - Hunter capacity: 28 hunting sites (4-person), with a maximum area capacity of 112 hunters in blinds, and 58 in the non-blind area. **Pheasant hunting is on the first Monday of pheasant season and on waterfowl shoot days during the pheasant season.** For info call 530 934-2801. Location and Access: About 5 miles east of Maxwell. Traveling on Interstate 5, turn east at the town of Maxwell on the Maxwell-Colusa Road and proceed about 3 3/4 miles to the graveled Four Mile Road, then north (left) two miles to the check station. From Colusa, travel north on the Colusa-Princeton Road five miles, then west on the Colusa-Maxwell Road 4 miles to the graveled Four Mile Road. Proceed north (right) 2 miles to the check station. Reservations: Available during the waterfowl and pheasant seasons. Check Station: During waterfowl season the check station will be open at least two hours before shooting time. *Reservations must be presented at the check station by one hour before waterfowl shooting time.* Non-reserved entry permits will be issued at the check station on hunting day. Lottery Drawing for first-come, first-served list. **First Monday** - No reservations will be issued for the first Monday of the pheasant season when only pheasants may be hunted. Hunters may register for a drawing on Sunday between 9:00AM and 4:00 PM. A drawing will be held on Sunday at 4:00 PM to establish order of entry. Lottery procedures will be followed.

NOTE: On Saturday, December 17, 2005 all blinds are reserved for junior hunters. Adult hunters may use the free-roam areas.

Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge - Hunter capacity: 46 hunting sites (4-person), with a maximum area capacity of 184 hunters in blinds, and 75 in the non-blind area. **Pheasant hunting is on the first Monday of pheasant season and on waterfowl shoot days during the pheasant season.** For info call 530 934-2801. Location and Access: About seven miles south of Willows. From Willows, travel south on Interstate 5 about seven miles to the junction with the Princeton offramp: turn east; proceed one mile to checking station. From Maxwell, travel north on Interstate 5 for eight miles; turn east (right) on the Princeton off ramp and proceed one mile to checking station. Caution: Chest waders are highly recommended. Reservations: Available during the waterfowl and pheasant seasons. Check Station: During waterfowl season the checking station will be open at least two hours before shooting time. *Reservations must be presented at the check station by one and one-half hours before waterfowl shooting time.* Non-reserved entry permits will be issued at the check station on hunting day. Lottery Drawing for first-come, first-served list. **First Monday** - No reservations will be issued for the first Monday of the pheasant season when only pheasants may be hunted. Hunters may register for a drawing on Sunday between 9:00AM and 4:00 PM. A drawing will be held on Sunday at 4:00 PM to establish order of entry. Lottery procedures will be followed. **NOTE:** On Saturday, December 10, 2005 all blinds are reserved for junior hunters. Adult hunters may use the free-roam areas.

Gray Lodge Wildlife Area -9,167 acres - Hunter capacity is 400 - **Pheasant hunting is every day during the first nine days of pheasant season. Thereafter, during the regular pheasant season, pheasant hunting will be allowed only on Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays.** Location and Access - From the town of Gridley (on Highway 99) proceed five miles west on the Gridley-Colusa Road, turn south (left) on Pennington Road and travel 3 miles to the checking station. From Live Oak, travel west on Pennington Road 8 1/2 miles through Pennington, then north (right) on Almond Orchard Road for 2 miles to the checking station. Reservations: Available during the waterfowl and pheasant seasons. Check Station: During waterfowl season the check station will be open at least two hours before shooting time. *Reservations must be presented at the check station by one hour before waterfowl shooting time.* During pheasant season reservations will be honored on waterfowl shoot days with vacancies being filled on a first-come, first-served basis. On non-waterfowl shoot days quotas shall be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. **Call 530 846-7500 for info.**

Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area - 9,208 acres - Hunter capacity: Llano Seco Unit is 30; Howard Slough Unit is 50; and the Little Dry Creek Unit is 80 - **Pheasant hunting is every day during the first five days of pheasant season, and on waterfowl hunt days during the remainder of pheasant season.** **Location and Access** - Llano Seco Unit - From Highway 99 north of Gridley, take Highway 162 west about 13 miles to Z Road. Go north on Z Road (it becomes 7 Mile Road in Butte County) about 6.5 miles to the check station sign on the left or west side of the road. Howard Slough Unit - Located about 11 miles west of Highway 99 on Highway 162. Checking station is on Road ZZ, one mile north of Highway 162. Little Dry Creek Unit - 11 miles west of Gridley on the Gridley-Colusa Highway. Check station on the north side of the road and east of Butte Creek. **Reservations:** Available during the waterfowl and pheasant season for Howard Slough and Little Dry Creek units, No reservations available for the Llano Seco Unit. **Check Station:** During waterfowl season the check stations will be open at least two hours before shooting time. **Call 530 982-2169 for info.**

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area - 3700 acres - Hunter capacity is 50, reservations get first priority. Daily hunter quota will be filled by the following order: 1) reservations, 2) lottery numbers, 3) first-come, first-served numbers. **Pheasant hunting is on waterfowl hunt days during the pheasant season. Good pheasant numbers.** **Location and Access:** About 3 miles east of Davis (4 miles west of West Sacramento) off Interstate 80. From eastbound I-80, take East Chiles Road exit and travel east 1/4 mile to the west levee access. From westbound I-80, take Frontage Road exit immediately west of the west end of the Yolo Causeway, turn right at stop sign and head south under freeway to west levee access. **Reservations:** Available during the waterfowl and pheasant seasons. **Check Station:** During approved hunting seasons, the parking lot and check station will open two hours before shooting time. **Overnight parking is not permitted** Hunters without reservations or lottery numbers will be assigned first-come, first-served numbers beginning two hours before shooting time at the hunter check station which is located within the Yolo Bypass. **Call 530 757-2461 for info.**

Grizzly Island Wildlife Area - Hunter capacity is 350 - **Pheasant hunting is each day during the first 12 days of the general pheasant season, and only on Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays during the remainder of the pheasant season. Rabbit hunting is allowed daily during most of July and on pheasant hunt days. Dove hunting is available on pheasant hunt days during the late dove season.** **Location and Access:** Within the Suisun Marsh about 10 miles southeast of Fairfield. From the cities of Fairfield or Rio Vista on Highway 12, turn south on Grizzly Island Road one mile east of Fairfield and proceed south 10 miles to the area headquarters. **Reservations:** Available for hunting waterfowl with vacancies being filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Pheasant hunters may have reservations on waterfowl shoot days with vacancies being filled on a first-come, first-served basis. On non-waterfowl shoot days quotas will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. **Check Station:** Grizzly Island Unit check station opens at least two hours before shooting time. *Reservations must be presented at the check station by one hour before shooting time.* Call 707 425-3828 for info.

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TYPE C WILDLIFE AREAS - No check stations

Sutter Bypass Wildlife Area - Hunting every day - 4,034 acres along the levee on much of both sides of the Sutter Bypass and the Tisdale Bypass. Other game includes waterfowl, dove, quail, tree squirrels, rabbits, coyotes, crows, ground squirrels and wild turkey. The Tisdale Bypass is the main hunting area and is located about 10 miles south of the town of Sutter, where Reclamation Road crosses the Tisdale Weir. Waterfowl, rabbit, pheasant, quail, dove, tree squirrel, wild turkey, coyote, and deer hunting are available. *Shotguns and archery equipment only.* For a map call (916) 358-2900.

Nelson Slough Wildlife Area - Hunting every day from July 1 through January 31 and during spring turkey season - 800 acres under the Highway 99-Feather River Bridge 23 miles north of Sacramento and 17 miles south of Yuba City. A Sutter-Yuba Junior Pheasant Hunt usually takes place here on the 2 weekends before pheasant season. Access is either east or west of Highway 99 on Sacramento Avenue. Sacramento Avenue is one mile north of the Feather River Bridge near Nicolaus. Waterfowl, rabbit, quail, dove, tree squirrel, dove, wild turkey, coyote, and deer hunting also available. *Shotguns and archery equipment only.* For a map call (916) 358-2900.

Oroville Wildlife Area - 11,371 acres - Hunting every day from September 1 - January 31 and spring turkey season. Spring turkey hunting is by drawing only. Best pheasant hunting is around the Thermolito Afterbay. The Oroville Junior Pheasant Hunt usually takes place on the 2nd Saturday of pheasant season near the Thermolito Afterbay. The Afterbay is located between Highway's 99 and 70 about 4.5 miles west of Oroville on Highway 162. Waterfowl, rabbit, quail, dove, tree squirrel, dove, chukar, bobwhite, coyote, and deer hunting also available. Spring wild turkey hunting by drawing only. *No fall turkey hunting. Shotguns and archery equipment only.* Call 530 538-2236 for info.

Colusa Bypass Wildlife Area - Hunting every day - 1,248 acres 1.5 miles north of Colusa. From Colusa, go north on River Road for 1.5 miles, then east on Laux Road for 1.5 miles to the north side of the wildlife area. *Shotguns and archery equipment only.* For a map call 916 359-2900.

O'Connor Lakes/Abbott Lake Wildlife Areas - Hunting July 1 to January 31 and spring turkey season - 910 acres. Located about 10 miles south of Yuba City and 25 miles north of Sacramento. Walk in access at the end of Star Bend Road off Garden Highway in Sutter County. Star Bend Road is located 0.5 mile north of the intersection of Highway 99 and Garden Highway near the Tudor area. Waterfowl, rabbit, quail, dove, tree squirrel, dove, wild turkey, coyote, and deer hunting also available. *Shotguns and archery equipment only.* For a map call (916) 358-2900.

Lake of the Woods and Star Bend Wildlife Areas - Hunting July 1 to January 31 and spring turkey season - 750 acres. Located about 10 miles south of Marysville and 25 miles north of Sacramento on Feather River Boulevard. Walk in access from the Star Bend Boat Ramp parking lot. The 700 acre Lake of the Woods WA begins 3/10 of a mile south of the Star Bend Boat Ramp and extends 5 miles south to the Bear River. The 50 acre Star Bend WA begins 4/10 of a mile upstream of the Star Bend Boat Ramp. Waterfowl, rabbit, quail, dove, tree squirrel, dove, wild turkey, coyote, and deer hunting also available. *Shotguns and archery equipment only.* For a map call (916) 358-2900.

Fremont Weir Wildlife Area - 212 acres - Hunting everyday from September 1 through January 31 - 212 acres. Travel north on Road 102 from Interstate 5 near Woodland for 5 miles and turn right on Road 16 for 2.5 miles. Then turn left on Road 116 for 1/2 mile to Road 116A and the wildlife area. Waterfowl, rabbit, dove, and crow hunting are also available. *Shotguns and archery equipment only.* For a map call 916 358-2900.

White Slough Wildlife Area - Hunting everyday from September 1 through January 31- 880 acres. Four separate parcels about 8 miles west of Lodi. Pond 5 Area is north of Woodbridge Road; Pond 6 Area is north of Woodbridge road is closed to hunting; Ponds 7 and 8 are east of Guard Road; and Ponds 9 through 13 are along the frontage road on the west side of Highway 5. Waterfowl, quail, dove, and dove hunting are also available. *Shotguns and archery equipment only.* For a map call (916) 358-2900.

Napa-Sonoma Marshes State Wildlife Area - Located west and north of State 37 near the City of Vallejo, east and south of Highway 121 near the cities of Sonoma and Napa. The majority of the area is accessed by boat via the Napa River, Sonoma Creek, Napa Slough, Hudeman Slough and other tributary sloughs. **Hunt Days:** Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays during open seasons for waterfowl, coots, moorhens, snipe, rabbits, pheasants, and doves. Doves and rabbits may also be hunted everyday during the September dove season. *Shotguns and archery equipment only.* For a map call (916) 358-2900.

Editors Note - If you notice any errors or omissions with this article, please call 530 846-7500 or 530 743-5068 and leave a message with the name of the article and the comment.

2005 Gamebird Heritage Junior Pheasant Hunts – Sacramento Valley, Central Sierra Region and Central Coast Region

We appreciate your interest in the Junior Pheasant Hunts. Below is some information on the hunts and how the application process works. Junior pheasant hunts are sponsored by the Department of Fish and Game and local community groups/sportsmen organizations. There is no fee for applying or participating. Hunts are open to anyone holding a current California Junior Hunting License.

Hunters are selected by random computer drawing. All postcard entries for a junior pheasant hunt must be received by the posted deadline date. All applications received by the deadline have an equal chance of being selected. Late applications will be considered on a first come-first served basis, only if there are still spaces available.

Only permit holders will be allowed to hunt. No junior hunters will be taken on a first come-first served basis on the day of the hunt. Each hunt area is drawn separately. Only one postcard per hunt area may be submitted. Submitting more than one application for a hunt will result in a disqualification of the applicant.

The following hunts can be applied to by using the application included in this issue of Wing Beat News or by sending a 4x6 postcard to: 1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. Include: names/address/phone/license #s/up to 4 hunters on one postcard/list hunt place, dates and times in order of preference. Applicants will only be considered for hunt dates/times they select. In no 2nd, 3rd or 4th choices are made, the applicant will only be considered for one hunt. Successful applicants will be mailed a permit, map and specific information 10-14 days prior to the hunt. Contact: (916) 358-2839.

Where: Sierra Valley,(Headwaters Preserve, Plumas Co.)

When: Sat., Oct. 8 am/pm Deadline: Wed. Sept. 21, 2005
Quota: 20 each hunt period – 40 total.

Where: Little Dry Creek (held at Upper Butte Basin WA, Butte Co.)

When: Sat. Nov. 19 am and Sun. Nov. 20 am. Deadline: Wed. Nov. 2
Quota: 50 each hunt period – 100 total.

Where: Oroville (held at Thermolito Afterbay, Oroville WA, Butte Co)

When: Sat. Nov. 26 am and pm. Deadline: Wed. Nov. 2
Quota: 50 each hunt period – 100 total.

Where: Gray Lodge (held in the closed zone of Gray Lodge WA, Butte Co)

When: Sat, Nov 19. Deadline: Wed. Nov. 2. **Quota:** 25 total.

Where: Sutter-Yuba Junior Pheasant Hunts and Sutter-Yuba Women's Pheasant Hunts at the Nelson Slough Wildlife Area.

When: Sat. Oct. 29 am/pm, (Juniors and Women);
Sat. Nov 5 am/pm, and Sun. Nov. 6 am/pm (Juniors and Women) Late applications accepted if hunts are not full. First Draw for each weekend: Wed. Oct. 12 and Tues. Oct 18. **Quota:** 75 each hunt, 600 total.

Where: Delta Islands (Twitchell/Sherman Islands)

When: Sat, Nov 19 & Sun, Nov 20. Deadline: Wed., Nov. 2
Quota: 50 each hunt period, 100 total. Contact: (209) 948-7800

Where: Yolo Bypass WA between West Sacramento and Davis

When: Sat, Nov 20 am. Deadline: Wed., Nov. 3
Quota: 25 total. Contact: (530) 757-2461

These junior pheasant hunts can be applied to by following the directions included in their description:

Where: Sutter Junior/Jr. Mobility Impaired Pheasant Hunt at Nelson Slough Wildlife Area (same location as Sutter-Yuba hunts). **When:** Sunday, Oct. 30 am/pm. **Quota:** 75 each/150 total. **Application:** Send a postcard or letter w/ the junior's name, address, phone #, hunting license number and a "1" and "2" next to Sunday AM and Sunday PM. Five applications will be considered as a group. **Mall to:** Sutter Co. F & G Commission, Sutter Co. Public Works, 1130 Civic Center Blvd. Yuba City, CA 95993. Contact Chuck Wyllie at (530) 671-9250 if you have any questions.

Where: Birds Limited Licensed Game Bird Club Junior Pheasant Hunts near Pleasant Grove (20 miles north of Sacramento). By appointment from Oct. 15, 2005 – Feb. 5, 2006. Reduced rate of \$10.00/pheasant for juniors. The adult mobility impaired hunt is suspended for 2005 due to equipment loss from burglary. **Call** (530) 823-9310.

Where: Llano Seco Ranch (held on Llano Seco Ranch, Sacramento NWR, Butte Co) **When:** Sun, Dec 12, am. Apply Nov 1-30.

How to Apply: Send 4x6" postcard to: Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, 752 Co. Rd. 99W, Willows, Ca 95988.

Include: name and license # of up to 2 hunters with contact address and phone #. **Quota:** 25 total **Contact:** (530)934-2801

Where: Grizzly Island WA near Fairfield

When: Sat, Nov 19 am/pm Sun, Nov 20, am/pm **How to Apply:** Permits will be issued to junior hunters on a first-come, first served basis beginning October 1st. Must include: Junior hunter name(s), Name of Chaperone(s)/Address/phone/License #/ 1st and 2nd Choice Hunt Number./2 junior per one card. **Submit written applications to:** Grizzly Island Junior Pheasant Hunt, Dept. of Fish and Game, 2548 Grizzly Island Road, Suisun, CA 94585-9539, or FAX (707) 425-1403.

Quota: Applications accepted until the hunt periods are full. 40 per hunt, 8 hunts.

Deadline: Nov 4, 2005 **Contact:** (707) 425-3828.

Where: Napa-Sonoma Marshes WA between Sonoma and Vallejo

When: Sat, Nov 19 am & pm. **Deadline:** Nov 4, 2005

How to Apply: 4x6" postcard to: Napa-Sonoma Marshes WA Jr. Pheasant Hunt, DFG, PO Box 47, Yountville, CA 94599

Must include: names/address/phone/license #'s/name of adult chaperone, desired hunt w/second choice/ 2 hunters per postcard

Quota: 10 per period, 20 total **Note:** an experienced chaperone can be provided upon request. Lunch provided from 12:00 to 1:00 for youths and chaperones. **Contact:** (707) 944-5542 or (707) 944-5500. **Deadline:** Nov. 4, 2005

Where: Laytonville Junior Pheasant Hunt (Bernie Geiger Memorial)

When: Nov 19, 2005

Deadline: Nov 4, 2005

How to Apply: 4x6" postcard to: Laytonville Junior Pheasant Hunt, PO Box 839, Laytonville, CA 95454

Must include: names/address/phone/license #'s/name of adult chaperone w/license #,

Quota: 20. **Note:** an experienced chaperone can be provided upon request.

Contact: (707) 456-0329 or (707) 944-5500

Where: Highland Springs Junior Pheasant Hunt near Kelseyville

When: Nov 19, 2005

Deadline: Nov 4, 2005

How to Apply: 4x6" postcard to: Highland Springs Junior Pheasant Hunt, PO Box 47, Yountville, CA 94599. Must include: names/address/phone/license #'s/name of adult chaperone.

Quota: 40.

Contact: (707) 944-5537 or (707) 944-5500

Where: Ray Azbill Junior Pheasant Hunt at San Miguel, Monterey County.

When: Feb 11 and 12, 2006

Applications available from Nov 1 – Dec 31, 2005, Call (805) 238-4236 or (707) 944-5500

Quota: 40, total 80. Unique hunt with more hunter education.

Stockton Sportsmen's Club, PO Box 1364, Stockton, CA 95201, (209) 957-9717. The check station is about 6 miles south of the Highway 120 bypass between Highway 99 and I-5. Take Airport Road for 5 miles south of Hwy 120 and turn right for ¾ mile to 3455 McMullin Road. Hunting is available on Saturdays, Sundays, Wednesdays and Thanksgiving between November 12 and December 25, 2005. Cost is \$25 for adults and \$10 per junior hunter for 2 birds. There is a special hunt on Dec. 4 when you buy a 6 pheasant/chukar ticket plus lunch for \$85.

ANNUAL SANDHILL CRANE FESTIVAL AT HUTCHINS STREET SQUARE IN LODI

When: Nov. 4-6, Programs, Displays, and Lectures are from 10AM-4PM. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for teens and under 12 are free. There will be family activities, art/photography show, workshops, music and dance performances, storytelling hands-on exhibits, wildlife tours, and presentations. Over 1,000 people came last year.

Nov. 4-6, Tours of the many nearby natural areas are from 6AM-6PM. Fees are \$10-\$30 per field trip. For more info about the festival, visit www.lodichamber.com or call 209-367-7840. 7

2005 Gamebird Heritage Wild Bird, Women's, Family and Mobility Impaired Pheasant Hunts – Sacramento Valley, Central Sierra Region and Central Coast Region

We appreciate your interest in these hunts. Information on the hunts and how the application process works is listed below. These special hunts are sponsored by the Department of Fish and Game and local community groups/sportsmen organizations. There is usually no fee for applying or participating. Hunts are open to anyone holding a current California Hunting License.

Hunters are selected by random computer drawing. All postcard entries for a special pheasant hunt must be received by the posted deadline date. All applications received by the deadline have an equal chance of being selected. Late applications will be considered on a first come-first served basis, only if there are still spaces available. Only permit holders will be allowed to hunt. No hunters will be taken on a first come-first served basis on the day of the hunt.

Applicants for these hunts may submit one postcard for each hunt area. List the date and times you wish to hunt by preference. Submitting more than one application for a hunt will result in a disqualification of the applicant.

The following hunts can be applied to by using the application included in this issue of Wing Beat News or by sending a 4x6 postcard to: 1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. Include: names/address/phone/license #s/up to 4 hunters on one postcard/list hunt place, dates and times in order of preference. Applicants will only be considered for hunt dates/times they select. In no 2nd, 3rd or 4th choices are made, the applicant will only be considered for one hunt. Successful applicants will be mailed a permit, map and specific information 10-14 days prior to the hunt. Contact: (916) 358-2839.

Where: Little Dry Creek Family Pheasant Hunt (Upper Butte Basin WA, Little Dry Creek Unit, Butte Co.)
When: Sun, Nov 13; **Deadline:** Wed, Oct 26; Quota: 50.

Where: Delta Islands Women's Pheasant Hunt (Twitchell/Sherman Islands)
When: Sun, Nov 13. **Deadline:** Wed, Oct 26; Quota: 50.

Where: Sutter-Yuba Women's Pheasant Hunt at Nelson Slough N of Sacramento
When: Oct. 29 am/pm, Nov. 5 am/pm and Nov. 6 am/pm. **Quota:** 75/hunt, 450 total. Late applicants accepted if hunts are not full. **Deadline:** Wed. Oct. 12 and Wed, Oct. 19.

Where: Delta Islands Wild Bird Public Pheasant Hunts (Twitchell and Sherman Islands). **When and (Deadline):** Nov 12, 16 (Oct. 26); Nov 23, (Nov 2); Nov 26, 30 (Nov 9), Dec. 3, 7 (Nov 16); Dec 10, 14 (Nov 23); Dec 17 (Nov. 30). Quota: 50/hunt, 500 total.

Where: SE Fremont Weir Wild Bird Public Pheasant Hunt, Yolo Co
When and (Deadline): Nov 12, 16 (Oct 26); Nov 19, 23 (Nov 2); Nov 26, 30 (Nov 9); Dec 3, 7 (Nov 16); Dec 10 (Nov 23). Quota: 40 permits per hunt, 360 total.

These hunts can be applied to by following the directions included in their description.

What: Grizzly Island Wildlife Area Women's Pheasant Hunt will be held Saturday, December 3, 2005. A special area will be reserved for this women's wild bird pheasant hunt. 12 hunt participants will be chosen by random drawing. Any properly licensed female hunter may apply by sending in a standard postcard to: **Grizzly Island Women's Pheasant Hunt, 2548 Grizzly Island Road, Suisun, CA 94585.** Postcard must include the hunter's **Name, Address, Phone Number, and Hunting License Number.** Hunt applicants may apply as a party of two by including all information for both hunters on one postcard. Only one entry per hunter will be allowed. **Deadline:** Nov 11, 2005
Contact: (707) 425-3828.

What: San Miguel Women's Hunting Clinic in Monterey County will be held on Dec. 3, 2005. Call (831) 649-2890 for info.

MOBILITY IMPAIRED JUNIOR PHEASANT HUNTS

WHAT and WHEN: Sutter County Fish and Game Commission **Mobility Impaired Junior Pheasant Hunt** on the morning and afternoon of **Sunday, October 30, 2005.** Application deadline is October 14, 2005. This hunt is for all junior hunters including those with impairments which affect mobility. If you are mobility impaired, note "MI" on the application or sending a late application; call (530) 671-9250.

WHERE: These hunts take place under the Highway 99 Bridge, near Nicolaus, about 25 miles north of Sacramento and 20 miles south of Yuba City. This is the same location as the junior hunts sponsored by the Yuba County Fish and Game Commission on Sat. Oct. 29, 2005 and the Dept. of Fish and Game junior/women hunts on Nov. 5 and 6, 2005.

APPLICATION: Send a postcard or letter w/ the junior's name, address, phone #, hunting license number and a "1" and "2" next to Sunday AM and Sunday PM. Five applications will be considered as a group.

MAIL TO: Sutter County Fish & Game Commission, Sutter County Public Works Dept., 1130 Civic Center Blvd, Yuba City, CA 95993. Contact Chuck Wyllie at (530) 671-9250 if you have any questions.

San Joaquin Valley Hunts – Junior, Family, Women’s Pheasant Hunts

Junior Pheasant Hunts - Twenty-four special junior pheasant hunts are being offered to young hunters by the Department of Fish and Game, Region 4, and sportsmen’s organizations. All of the hunts are free.

Junior hunters (Junior license holders) must be accompanied by an adult (18 years of age or older). The adult accompanying the junior hunter cannot hunt or carry a shotgun. An Upland Game Bird Stamp is not required of junior license holders. Male ring-necked pheasants will be released prior to each hunt period.

How To Apply - Up to four junior hunters can apply as a party. When applying for the hunts, provide the following information for yourself and any other junior hunter(s) in your party: name, address, daytime and evening telephone numbers, 2005-2006 hunting license number, and location (i.e., Modesto), date and hunt period in order of preference. Hunters may apply only once for each hunt, either as an applicant or guest. Submitting multiple applications will disqualify you from the drawing. For all hunts, simply provide the information requested above and mail it to the name and address of the hunt. Schedule is as follows: Please note that your applications must be mailed to the proper address. Only successful applicants will be notified.

Modesto - Quota 25/hunt - Nov 12 am or pm, Nov 13 am or pm. Mail to: DFG Junior Pheasant Hunts, 1234 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno, Ca 93710, (559) 243-4005 ext 132 or 133. Deadline: Oct 21, 5:00 pm.

Taft - Quota 40/hunt - Nov 12 am or pm, Nov 13 am or pm. Mail to: Taft Sportsmen’s Club, P.O. Box 1245, Taft, CA 93268, (661) 763-5517 or (661) 342-2838. Deadline Oct 21, 5 pm. E-mail: loneranger@bak.rr.com.

Lake Isabella - Quota 30/hunt - Nov 19 am or pm, Nov 20 am or pm. Mail to: Lake Isabella Jr. Pheasant Hunt, P.O. Box 127, Lake Isabella, CA 93240, (760) 379-3188 or (760) 379-8251. Deadline Oct 28, by 5:00 pm.

Mendota - Quota 25/hunt - Nov 19 am or pm, Dec. 3 am or pm. Mail to: DFG Junior Pheasant Hunts, 1234 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno, Ca 93710, (559) 243-4005 ext 133. Deadline: Oct 21, 5:00 pm.

Success Lake - Quota 50/hunt - Nov 19 am or pm, Nov 20 am or pm. Mail to: Success Lake Junior Pheasant Hunt, P.O. Box 89, Porterville, Ca 93258. (559) 781-6087 Deadline Oct 28, 5:00 pm.

O’Neill Forebay (near Los Banos) - Quota 35/hunt - Nov 19 am or pm, Nov 26 am or pm. Mail to: DFG Junior Pheasant Hunts, 1234 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno, Ca 93710, (559) 243-4005 ext 133. Deadline: Oct 21, 5:00 pm.

Family Pheasant Hunts: Twenty-two San Joaquin Valley family pheasant hunting opportunities are being offered by the Dept. of Fish and Game, Region 4.

When applying for the hunts, you must indicate the family members(s) in your party. Male ring-necked pheasants will be released prior to each hunt. Successful applicants and their guest(s) (except junior license holders) must pay a \$14.00 entry (waived at the Gustine hunt in lieu of a two-day or annual hunting area pass). Do not send the \$14.00 fee with your application; it will be collected when you check in at the hunt. An Upland Game Stamp is required of all hunters, except junior license holders. Hunters under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult (18 years of age or older).

How To Apply - Hunters will be selected by a random computerized drawing. Applications may include up to four family members applying as a party. When applying for the hunts, provide the following information for yourself and any other family hunter(s): name, address, daytime and evening telephone numbers, 2005-2006 hunting license number and hunt number, location (i.e., [N] Merced), date and hunt period in order of preference. Hunters may apply only once for each hunt. Applying for the same hunt more than once will disqualify you from the drawing.

Hunters will be selected for only one hunt. This is to provide more hunters with the opportunity to participate in these special hunts. Please make your selections carefully. Changes cannot be made after the drawing. Applications must be returned to:

DFG Family Pheasant Hunts - 1234 East Shaw Avenue, Fresno, California 93710

Applications must be received by Friday, October 28, 2005, at 5:00 p.m. to be eligible for the drawing. Only successful applicants will be notified with instructions and a map to the hunt area. It is your responsibility to notify other family member(s) of being successful in the drawing. For an application, contact the Department of Fish and Game, Game Bird Heritage Program at (559) 243-4005, extension 132 or 133. List in the order of preference on your application.

Hunt A: Alpaugh, Quota 50, Sat, Nov. 19 am
Hunt B: Alpaugh, Quota 50, Sat, Nov. 19 pm
Hunt C: Bakersfield, Quota 50, Sat, Nov. 19 am
Hunt D: Bakersfield, Quota 50 Sat, Nov. 19 pm
Hunt E: Gustine, Quota 50, Sat, Nov 19 am
Hunt F: Gustine, Quota 50, Sat, Nov 19 pm
Hunt G: Kettleman City, Quota 50, Sat, Nov. 19 am
Hunt H: Kettleman City, Quota 50, Sat, Nov. 19 pm
Hunt I: San Joaquin, Quota 50, Sun, Nov. 19 am
Hunt J: San Joaquin, Quota 50, Sun, Nov. 19 pm

Hunt K: Stevinson, Quota 50, Sat, Dec. 3 am
Hunt L: Stevinson, Quota 50, Sat, Dec. 3 pm
Hunt M: Merced, Quota 25, Sat, Dec. 3 am
Hunt N: Merced, Quota 25, Sat, Dec. 3 pm
Hunt O: Merced, Quota 25, Sat, Dec 4 am
Hunt P: Merced, Quota 25, Sat, Dec 4 pm
Hunt Q: Chowchilla, Quota 50, Sat, Dec 17 am
Hunt R: Chowchilla, Quota 50, Sat, Dec 17 pm
Hunt S: Modesto, Quota 50, Sat, Nov 20 am
Hunt T: Modesto, Quota 50, Sat, Nov 20 pm

Women's Pheasant Hunts - Six special women's pheasant hunting opportunities are being offered by the Dept. of Fish and Game, Region 4. When applying for the hunts, you must indicate who you would like to bring as a guest hunter. Male ring-necked pheasants will be released prior to each hunt.

Successful applicants and their guest(s) (except junior license holders) must pay a \$14.00 entry fee. Do not send the \$14.00 fee with your application; it will be collected when you check in at the hunt. An Upland Game Stamp is required of all hunters, except junior license holders. Hunters under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult (18 years of age or older).

Hunters will be selected by a random computerized drawing and allowed to bring one female hunting guest. When applying for the hunts, provide the following information for yourself and your guest: name, address, daytime and evening telephone numbers, 2005-2006 hunting license number, and hunt number, location (i.e., [S] Modesto), date and hunt period in order of preference. Hunters may apply only once for each hunt. Applying for the same hunt more than once will disqualify you from the drawing. Hunters will be selected for only one hunt. This is to provide more hunters with the opportunity to participate in these special hunts. Please make your selections carefully. Changes cannot be made after the drawing. Applications must be returned to:

Game Bird Heritage Women's Pheasant Hunts - 1234 East Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93710

Applications must be received by Friday, October 28, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. to be eligible for the drawing. Only successful applicants will be notified with instructions and a map to the hunt area. It is your responsibility to notify your guest hunter of being successful in the drawing. For additional information on any of these hunts or an application, contact the Department of Fish and Game, Game Bird Heritage Program at (559) 243-4005, ext. 133.

Women's Pheasant Hunts

Hunt A: Bakersfield, Quota 25, Sat., Dec 3 am
Hunt B: Bakersfield, Quota 25, Sat., Dec 3 pm
Hunt C: Gustine, Quota 25, Sat., Dec 3 am

Hunt D: Gustine, Quota 25, Sat., Dec 3 pm
Hunt E: Modesto, Quota 25, Sat., Nov 19 am
Hunt F: Modesto, Quota 25, Sat., Nov 19 pm

Pheasant Hunt for Persons Dependent upon a Wheelchair

A special pheasant hunt for persons dependent upon a wheelchair will be held on Nov. 20, 2005, from 11am until sunset near the town of Chowchilla on private property. This hunt can accommodate 25 hunters and will take place in a flat alfalfa field. Trained pointing dogs will be used to locate the pheasants. Volunteers will also be on hand to push the wheelchair hunters through the field if desired.

Successful applicants and their guest (except junior license holders) must pay a \$14.00 entry fee. Do not send the \$14.00 fee with your application; it will be collected when you check in at the hunt. An Upland Game Stamp is required of all hunters, except junior license holders. Hunters under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult (18 years of age or older).

Hunters will be selected by a random computerized drawing and allowed to bring one hunting guest who is also dependent upon a wheelchair. When applying for the hunt, provide the following information for yourself and your guest: name, address, daytime and evening telephone numbers, 2004-2005 hunting license number. Hunters may apply only once for each hunt either as an applicant or as a guest. Submitting multiple applications will disqualify you from the drawing. Applications must be returned to:

Game Bird Heritage Program, Pheasant Hunt for Persons Dependent upon a Wheelchair
1234 East Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93710

Applications must be received by Friday, October 28, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. to be eligible for the drawing. Only successful applicants will be notified with instructions and a map to the hunt area. It is your responsibility to notify your guest hunter of being successful in the drawing. For additional information on any of these hunts or an application, contact the Department of Fish and Game, Game Bird Heritage Program at (559) 243-4005, ext. 133.

DFG Booth at Sport Shows

Come see our booth at the following sport shows this winter. Many sporting activities, hunting apparel, hunt clubs, guides and outfitters, youth activities, national and local conservation organizations, seminars and much more will be featured at these shows.

1. San Francisco - Fishing, Tackle, and Boat Show at the Cow Palace on January 4-8, 2006. See www.fredhall.com.
2. Sacramento - International Sportsmen's Exposition at Cal Expo/California State Fairgrounds on January 19-22, 2006. Call 360-693-3700 or 800-545-6100 for info or www.sportsexpos.com for maps and coupons.
3. San Mateo - International Sportsmen's Exposition at the San Mateo County Expo Center on January 12-15, 2006. Call 360-693-3700 or 800-545-6100 for info or www.sportsexpos.com for maps and coupons.

VOLUNTEERS WITH TRAINED BIRD DOGS NEEDED

On October 29, 30 and November 5, 6, 2005 there will be Junior /Womens Pheasant Hunts at the Nelson Slough Wildlife Area 25 miles north of Sacramento on Hwy 99. There will be hunting opportunities for 520 youth, women, and wheelchair bound junior hunters. Adult volunteers with or without trained bird dogs are urgently needed to plant the pheasants and act as monitors with small groups of junior hunters and their adults. If you have a trained bird dog, you can help a junior hunter without a dog get their first bird. Come help for a half day or the whole weekend. Please help the sportsmen from the Yuba and Sutter County Fish and Game Commissions pass our outdoor traditions on to the next generation. If you can help, please contact DFG Wildlife Biologist Dale Whitmore at (530) 743-5068. Please give me a call and leave your name, address, and phone number.

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GAME BIRD HERITAGE SPECIAL PHEASANT HUNT APPLICATION

JUNIORS and WOMEN 2005

California Department of Fish & Game
Sacramento Valley Central Sierra Region

Please check the boxes below for the hunts you would like to apply for. You may apply for any hunt and any dates, but you will only be drawn for one hunt per date. Do not send more than 1 application or you will be disqualified. For Delta hunts-apply online at www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/hunts beginning October 1st.

This section must be complete to qualify for the drawing. You may apply as a party of up to four, as long as all hunter's names and hunting licenses appear.

Name: _____	License #: _____	Contact Address & Phone #: _____
Name: _____	License #: _____	Zip: _____
Name: _____	License #: _____	
Name: _____	License #: _____	() _____

JUNIOR HUNTS

Area	Quota	Dates	Deadline	Check to Apply
Sierra Valley (Headwaters Honker Preserve)	20	Oct. 8 am	Sep. 21	
	20	Oct. 8 pm	Sep. 21	
Yuba Co. FGC (Nelson Slough)	65	Oct. 29 am	Oct. 12	
	65	Oct. 29 pm	Oct. 12	
Yuba-Sutter DFG (Nelson Slough)	65	Nov. 5 am	Oct. 19	
	65	Nov. 5 pm	Oct. 19	
	65	Nov. 6 am	Oct. 19	
	65	Nov. 6 pm	Oct. 19	
Gray Lodge	25	Nov. 19	Nov. 2	
Little Dry Creek	50	Nov. 19	Nov. 2	
	50	Nov. 20	Nov. 2	
Delta Islands	50	Nov. 19	Nov. 2	
	50	Nov. 20	Nov. 2	
Yolo	25	Nov. 19	Nov. 2	
Oroville WA	50	Nov. 26 am	Nov. 2	
	50	Nov. 26 pm	Nov. 2	

WOMEN'S HUNTS

Area	Quota	Dates	Deadline	Check to Apply
Yuba Co. FGC <small>Combined with Jr hunt</small>	65	Oct. 29 am	Oct. 12	
	65	Oct. 29 pm	Oct. 12	
Yuba-Sutter DFG (Nelson Slough) <small>Combined with Jr hunt</small>	65	Nov. 5 am	Oct. 19	
	65	Nov. 5 pm	Oct. 19	
	65	Nov. 6 am	Oct. 19	
	65	Nov. 6 pm	Oct. 19	
Delta Islands	50	Nov. 13	Oct. 26	

Mail to: Department of Fish and Game
GBH Special Hunts
1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A,
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
For Questions Call: 916-358-2839

- * Multiple applications will be disqualified
- * A computer drawing will occur the day after the deadline
- * Successful applicants will be notified by mail and will receive specific information about the hunt
- * Wild bird public and Family hunts are available on a separate app
- * Non-hunters are not restricted and do not need to be declared on this app
- * Additional information will be available by calling 916-358-2839
- * These hunts are free and open to all legal hunters
- * There are no re-fills or exchanges, only the hunters listed on this app will be able to hunt

Definitions- Junior: A person who purchased a CA hunting license while under the age of 16. Woman: Any female with a CA hunting license. Public: Any one with a CA hunting license. Mobility Impaired-Any CA hunting license holder with a mobility impairment (unless specified for juniors). Family- Any party of two or more, preferably with at least 1 junior.

Region 1, Northern California, North Coast

Junior/Women's Pheasant Hunts

What: Women's Pheasant Hunt at Honey Lake Wildlife Area, Lassen County

When: Oct. 22, 2005 am and pm. Quota – 40. App deadline is Oct. 15.

What: Junior Pheasant Hunt at Honey Lake Wildlife Area, Lassen County

When: Nov. 5 & 6, 2005; am and pm each day. Quota – 25, total 100. App. deadline is Oct. 28. **How to Apply:** Send the following info to: Honey Lake WA, 728-600 Fish and Game Road, Wendel, CA 96136. Include: names/address/phone/license #s/of the women/Jr hunters /list hunt place, dates and times in order of preference. Info: Call (530) 254-6644.

What: Shasta Valley Wildlife Area Junior Pheasant Hunt, Siskiyou County

When: Nov 19, 2005, 8am and 1pm; Quota – 50. Send postcard/3x5card w/ name, address, phone #. License # and preference for am or pm hunt to Shasta Valley WA, 1724 Ball Mt-Shasta Valley Road, Montague CA 96064. App deadline is Nov. 2. Info: (530) 459-3926

What: Lake Earl Women's Pheasant Hunt. **When:** Nov. 5. App deadline is Oct.21.

What: Lake Earl Wildlife Area Junior Pheasant Hunt, Del Norte County

When: Nov 19, 2005, am and pm; App deadline is Nov. 4. Quota – 65. Send postcard/3x5 card w/ name, address, phone #, age, license # and preference for which day to Lake Earl WA, PO Box 1934, Crescent City, CA 95531. Info: (707) 464-2523.

What: Eel River Wildlife Area Women's Pheasant Hunt, Humboldt County

When: Sun. Nov. 6, 2005 Deadline Oct.7.

What: Eel River Wildlife Area Junior Pheasant Hunt, Humboldt County

When: November 19 and 20, 2005; AM and PM hunts. Deadline Oct. 14. Quota – 150

Send postcard w/ name, address, phone #. license # and preference for dates to DFG, 619 2nd St., Eureka CA 95501. Info: 707 725-3637 or 707 464-2523.

What: Shasta County Sportsmen's Club Junior Pheasant Hunt, Tehama County (Junior and Women's hunts on the "Bend Area" of the Sacramento River Recreation Area north of Red Bluff) **When:** Nov 19 and 20, 2005, 8 am and 1 pm. App. deadline is Nov. 7. Quota 100.

What: Shasta County Sportsmen's Club Women's Pheasant Hunt, Tehama County

When: Dec. 3, 2005, 8 am and 1 pm. App deadline is Nov. 18. Quota 50. Info: (530) 597-2201

Send postcard w/ name, address, phone #. license #, date of birth for Jrs, and preference for am or pm hunt to Tehama WA, PO Box 188, Paynes Creek, CA 96075. Info: (530) 597-2201.

TRACKS, WING BEAT NEWS, AND OUTDOOR CALIFORNIA ARE AVAILABLE BY MAIL

TRACKS is a **free** subscription-based, quarterly Dept. of Fish and Game color magazine with statewide information about hunting and fishing. The spring edition focused on big game hunting with information on deer, elk, antelope, bighorn sheep, bear and pig tag applications. Hunting statistics, answers to common questions, the 2005 deer herd forecast, and much more is included. **To sign up for TRACKS send your name, mailing address, city, state and zip code to: DFG Tracks by Mail, 1416 Ninth Street #117, Sacramento, CA 95814, or e-mail the same address info to: cprusinski@dfg.ca.gov.**

WING BEAT NEWS is a **free**, subscription-based Dept. of Fish and Game newsletter, published 3 times a year, which focuses on spring turkey hunting, dove hunting and fall hunting. This publication includes the location of many public lands and game species which may be found on them. **To sign up for the Northern California Wing Beat News (north of Modesto to Oregon) send your name, mailing address, city, state and zip code to: Wing Beat News-N. Cal, 3207 Rutherford Road, Gridley, CA 95948 or email to: glwla@dfg.ca.gov. Renew your Northern Cal WBN subscription every 2 years with a renew note to either of the same addresses.**

For a subscription to the **Central California Wing Beat News (Modesto to Bakersfield) send your name, mailing address, city, state and zip code to WBN-Central Cal., 18110 West Henry Miller Ave., Los Banos, CA 93635.**

OUTDOOR CALIFORNIA is a **\$12.00 a year**, bimonthly (6X a year) color magazine with a variety of stories about wildlife, wildlife habitat, law enforcement cases involving wildlife, fishing and much more. **A one year subscription can be acquired by sending a \$12 check or money order to: Outdoor California, P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090. For subscription assistance call (916) 653-6420.**

Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan

The Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), located south of Sacramento and adjacent to I-5, will be releasing a draft of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Refuge in the fall of 2005. This document is being prepared by the staff at Stone Lakes NWR and the California/Nevada Refuge Planning Office and will cover all aspects of managing the refuge, including public use. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be seeking public comments on the Plan, which will be available at the website <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/stonelakes>, local libraries and from the Refuge office at (916) 775-4421. Please check the website periodically for information on the comment period.

Hunters and fisherman should take note of this opportunity to print or call for a copy of the plan, and send a letter affirming the importance of public recreation which includes hunting and fishing.

GAME BIRD HERITAGE SPECIAL PHEASANT HUNT APPLICATION WILD BIRD and FAMILY 2005

California Department of Fish & Game
Sacramento Valley Central Sierra Region

Please check the boxes below for the hunts you would like to apply for. You may apply for any hunt and any dates, but you will only be drawn for one hunt per date. Do not send more than 1 application or you will be disqualified. For Delta hunts: apply online at www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/hunts beginning October 1st.

This section must be complete to qualify for the drawing. You may apply as a party of up to four, as long as all hunter's names and hunting licenses appear.

Contact Address & Phone #:

Name: _____ License #: _____
 Name: _____ License #: _____ Zip: _____
 Name: _____ License #: _____
 Name: _____ License #: _____ () _____

WILD BIRD PUBLIC HUNT

Area	Quota	Dates	Deadline	Check to Apply
South East Fremont Weir	40	Nov. 12	Oct. 26	
	40	Nov. 16	Oct. 26	
	40	Nov. 19	Nov. 2	
	40	Nov. 23	Nov. 2	
	40	Nov. 26	Nov. 9	
	40	Nov. 30	Nov. 9	
	40	Dec. 3	Nov. 16	
	40	Dec. 7	Nov. 16	
	40	Dec. 10	Nov. 23	
Delta Islands	2 Locations		Twitchell	Sherman
	50	Nov. 12	Oct. 26	
	50	Nov. 16	Oct. 26	
	50	Nov. 23	Nov. 2	
	50	Nov. 26	Nov. 9	
	50	Nov. 30	Nov. 9	
	50	Dec. 3	Nov. 16	
	50	Dec. 7	Nov. 16	
	50	Dec. 10	Nov. 23	
	50	Dec. 14	Nov. 23	
	50	Dec. 17	Nov. 30	

FAMILY HUNT

Area	Quota	Dates	Deadline	Check to Apply
Little Dry Creek	50	Nov. 13	Oct. 26	

Mail to: Department of Fish and Game
GBH Special Hunts
1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A,
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
For questions call: 916-358-2839

- * Multiple applications will be disqualified
- * A computer drawing will occur the day after the deadline
- * Junior and Women's hunts are available on a separate application
- * Successful applicants will be notified by mail and will receive specific information about the hunt
- * Non-hunters are not restricted and do not need to be declared on this app
- * Additional information will be available by calling 916-358-2839
- * These hunts are free and open to all legal hunters
- * There are no re-fills or exchanges, only the hunters listed on this app will be able to hunt

Definitions- Public: Any one with a CA hunting license. Mobility Impaired-Any CA hunting license holder with a mobility impairment (unless specified for juniors). Family- Any party of two or more, preferably with at least 1 junior.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is pleased to announce.....

Public waterfowl hunting on the Sun River Unit of Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge during the 2005-2006 waterfowl hunt season "Reservation Only" hunts for the general public will be conducted on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Seven blinds will be available. Stone Lakes NWR is located 8 miles south of Sacramento and adjacent to I-5. Interested parties may apply for one of the five categories per hunt day:

Space blind, Two-person (4 blinds Wednesday; 3 blinds Saturday)

Boat in blind, Two-person (2 blinds Wednesday; 1 blind Saturday)

Youth Space blind, Three-person (1 space blind Saturday only: one adult & two youth allowed)

Youth Boat blind, Three-person (1 boat blind Saturday only: one adult & two youth allowed)

Disabled blind, Two-person (1 blind: one disabled accompanied by one able-bodied hunter)

Boats for the boat blinds will be provided and need to be manually propelled by oars, paddles (provided), or push poles (NO MOTORS). Boat hunters must provide their own Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (pdf) type II or III for each person. Boat blinds require that the party uses the boat as the mode of transportation to the blind located in the water. No hunting from the actual boat. Space blinds consist of either a concrete pit blind or a platform blind. To qualify as disabled, the applicant must possess a DMV placard identification card/receipt with the applicants name listed, and must show at check-in station. All licensed hunters in blind may participate in hunt. All hunters **must check-in and check-out at the check station** and report hunting results. This is a random drawing and first drawn gets first pick. Youth blind hunters get overall first pick on Saturdays. No waiting line "backfill" hunting.

Application Procedure

This is a non-fee hunt. **Applicants must apply by US Mail on the provided Stone Lakes NWR Hunt Application.**

Postcards, faxes and emails will *not* be accepted. **Applicants may only apply once per hunt day.** The following information must be filled out on all applications for entry into the drawing (incomplete applications will not be eligible for the drawing):

Name and 2005/2006 Hunting License number of lead party applicant. Complete address and phone number for lead party applicant. Desired hunt date: Applicants may apply for multiple hunt days on the same application. Any applicant who submits multiple entries *for the same hunt date* will be *disqualified from the drawing*.

Type of blind (listed above): Applicants may only apply for one of the five choices. Any applicant who submits *multiple applications* for more than one blind type or the same blind *for the same shoot day* will be *disqualified from the drawing*.

Send application to: Hunt Application, Stone Lakes NWR, 1624 Hood-Franklin Road, Elk Grove, CA 95757

Hunt days will be Wednesdays and Saturdays. Individuals interested in applying for these hunting opportunities *must submit their applications through the US Mail and MUST be received on or before the appropriate application due date as listed below.* **Successful applicants will be selected by a random drawing and notified approximately ten days prior to their hunt and will be sent directions and a map of the hunt area prior to their hunt day.**

2005 - 2006 Waterfowl Regulations Stone Lakes NWR Migratory Game Bird Hunting - Hunting of goose, duck, coot, and moorhen will be allowed on designated areas of the refuge in accordance with State regulations subject to the following conditions:

Hunting will be allowed on Sun River Unit only on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 1/2 hour before legal sunrise until 12 p.m. (noon). Hunters will be selected through a random drawing process conducted at the refuge. Hunters should bring a copy of their refuge notification on the day of their hunt. Hunters should contact the refuge manager for additional information. Check station will be open two hours before shooting time. Hunters must check in at least one hour before shooting time. Blinds will be assigned based on "first drawn gets first pick" in the numerical order stamped on reservation starting **two hours** before shoot time.

Youth blind hunters will get first overall pick on Saturdays. No waiting line "backfill" hunting. No camping or overnight parking on the area. Fires are prohibited. Junior hunters must possess a valid Junior Hunting License. Adults, age 18 or older, will be required to accompany hunters under age 16. Firearms must be unloaded before transporting them between parking areas and spaced-blind areas. "Unloaded" means that no ammunition is in the chamber or magazine of the firearm. Hunters are restricted to their assigned spaced-blind except when they are placing or retrieving decoys, traveling to and from the parking area, retrieving downed birds, or when shooting to retrieve cripples.

Only approved nontoxic shot may be possessed while in the field in quantities of 25 or less. No shot shells larger than 12 gauge and no shot larger than T permitted. Alcohol is prohibited on the refuge. Vehicles are allowed to stop only at designated parking areas.. Dropping of passengers or equipment or stopping between designated parking areas is prohibited. Travel is restricted to designated roads. Park only at designated parking lots.

Bicycles or other conveyances are prohibited. Mobility-impaired hunters should contact the refuge manager regarding allowed conveyances. Hunters may use decoy carts.

Boat hunters must provide their own Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (pdf) type II or III for each person. Float tubes prohibited.

All decoys, personal equipment, shotshell hulls, and refuse must be removed from the refuge by 1:00 p.m.

Use of hunting dogs for retrieving birds is allowed, provided the dogs remain under the immediate control of the hunter at all times. Dogs must be kept in autos or on a leash in the check station parking area.

All hunters *must check out at check station* and report hunting results.

No high shooting or Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated.

Violators may be ejected from area.

Please do not pick birds in the field or at the parking lots.

Date Received - Office Use

Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge

2005 - 2006 Waterfowl Hunt Application

Drawing - Office Use

Applicant Information

This is a non-fee "RESERVATION ONLY" hunt for the general public and will be conducted on **Wednesdays and Saturdays**. Applicants must send this application by US Mail and MUST be received on or before the appropriate application due date. Successful applicants will be selected by a random drawing and notified approximately ten days prior to their hunt. **Any applicant who submits multiple entries for the same hunt date will be disqualified from the drawing.** This information must be **completely** filled out for entry into the drawing (*incomplete applications will not be eligible for the drawing*). Applicants may only apply for one of the five choices per hunt day. Applicants may apply for multiple hunt days on the same application.

PRINT or TYPE

First Name:	M.I.:	Last Name:
Home Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Day Phone: ()	2005/2006 Hunting License Number:	
Evening Phone: ()	Signature:	

Interested parties may apply for only **ONE** of the five categories for the specified General Hunt Date:

- 'S' = Space blind, Two-person (4 blinds Wednesday; 3 blinds Saturday)
- 'B' = Boat in blind, Two-person (2 blinds Wednesday; 1 blind Saturday)
- 'Y-S' = Youth Space blind, Three-person (1 space blind Saturday only: one adult & two youth allowed)
- 'Y-B' = Youth Boat blind, Three-person (1 boat blind Saturday only: one adult & two youth allowed)
- 'D' = Disabled blind, Two-person (1 blind; one disabled accompanied by one able-bodied hunter)

General Hunt Date	Application Due Date	Type of Blind	General Hunt Date	Application Due Date	Type of Blind
10/22/05	10/01/05		12/14/05	11/23/05	
10/29/05	10/08/05		12/17/05	11/26/05	
11/02/05	10/12/05		12/21/05	11/30/05	
11/05/05	10/15/05		12/24/05	*closed*	*closed*
11/09/05	10/19/05		12/28/05	12/07/05	
11/12/05	10/22/05		12/31/05	12/10/05	
11/16/05	10/26/05		01/04/06	12/14/05	
11/19/05	10/29/05		01/07/06	12/17/05	
11/23/05	11/02/05		01/11/06	12/21/05	
11/26/05	11/05/05		01/14/06	12/24/05	
11/30/05	11/09/05		01/18/06	12/28/05	
12/03/05	11/12/05		01/21/06	12/31/05	
12/07/05	11/16/05		01/25/06	01/04/06	
12/10/05	11/19/05		01/28/06	01/07/06	

Boats will be provided and need to be manually propelled by oars, paddles (provided), or push poles (NO MOTORS). To qualify as disabled, the applicant must possess a DMV placard identification card/receipt with the applicants name listed, and must show at check-in station. All licensed hunters in blind may participate in hunt. This is a random drawing and "first drawn gets first pick"; Youth blinds get overall first pick on Saturday. Please be familiar with the complete hunt rules for Stone Lakes NWR posted on the website <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/stonelakes/> or contact the refuge to request a copy at (916) 775-4421.

Send application to: "Hunt Application", Stone Lakes NWR, 1624 Hood-Franklin Road, Elk Grove, CA 95757

QUAIL SEASON

Early Mountain Quail Season Zone A starts Saturday, September 10, 2005 and ends Friday, October 14, 2005.

This early mountain quail zone includes the counties of Alpine, Butte, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Inyo, Lassen, Modoc, Mono, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity, and those portions of Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Madera, Mariposa, Nevada, Placer, Tuolumne, Tulare, and Yuba Counties lying east of the western boundary of the national forests. **The General Quail Season for all quail in Zone A is open from October 15, 2005 to January 29, 2006** (same as Balance of the State Season in Zone C).

The Early Coastal Season (Zone B) for all quail in the counties of Marin, Napa, Solano, Sonoma, Lake and Mendocino is from September 24, 2005 to January 29, 2006.

The 2005 season for all quail in the Balance of the State Season (Zone C) runs from October 15, 2005 to January 29, 2006. The balance of the state season (all species) hunting Zone C includes the remaining land area not included in Zone B (the counties of Marin, Napa, Solano, Sonoma, Lake and Mendocino).

Bag Limit: 10 quail in any combination of species per day. Possession Limit: double the daily bag limit. Be sure to check the California Hunting Regulations for Resident Game Birds for further information. Call the numbers listed under PLACES TO HUNT on how to acquire maps of those areas.

Shooting Hours for Upland Game Birds - The shooting hours for all upland game birds, except for pheasants and the spring wild turkey season, shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. The shooting hours for pheasants shall be from 8:00 a.m. to sunset. The shooting hours for the spring wild turkey season shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to 4:00 p.m.

Pat Lauridson, the Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Biologist responsible for quail management in California, reports that: **"Valley quail brood survival did well due to the abundant late spring rain. Accordingly, hunting prospects in the Sacramento Valley and adjacent foothills look good to excellent depending upon adult carryover within local populations".**

HUNTING QUAIL -In northern California there are two species of quail, the California or "valley" quail and the mountain quail. The California quail is a social animal and spends most of the year, including the hunting season, in large groups called coveys. These coveys are usually formed in August and September when several family groups, consisting of parents and their offspring, merge to form one large group, the covey.

California quail prefer to roost in dense evergreen shrubs or trees, usually close to water. The covey rises from its roost between first light and sunrise. In cold or foul weather they may leave the roost much later. Just before the covey leaves the roost, one of the males will usually give a few good morning "Chi-ca-go" calls. This helps any quail that may have been separated from the covey, either when they went to roost or during the night, find their way back.

California quail are hunted in chaparral, oak woodlands and stream side habitats in lower elevation foothills and the valleys. California quail are quite vocal and sometimes the covey can be located by simply listening for their "chi-ca-go" call given most frequently during periods of active feeding in early morning or late evening. However, in order to consistently locate coveys of quail a hunting dog is a must.

In contrast, mountain quail can be found on public lands in the Sierra Nevada and Coast Range forests. Hunting mountain quail in the steep brushy areas that they prefer can be a real challenge. Like the California quail, coveys of mountain quail can be located by listening for their high, clear, rather plaintive call. They will readily answer the whistle of a hunter trying to locate them.

HUNTING QUAIL WITHOUT A DOG - The first step is to locate a covey of quail, this goes for persons both with and without a dog. There are two keys to this puzzle: one is cover, the other is water. Once water has been located, search the surrounding terrain and locate some good cover, the thicker the better. If there is no good cover within 1/4 mile try another spot. Head toward the cover, keeping an eye open for quail scurrying along the ground out the "back door". Also keep an ear open for their "pit-pit" alarm call. If they spot you and they are a good distance away, you may hear their assembly call.

If they are heading up a valley draw, odds are they will continue to travel along the cover in front of you. Place one person on each side of the draw and follow them. If you have a third person, put one down in the draw. This will help prevent you from moving past them. If they are heading up the side of a hill (especially a steep one) it is best to try and out maneuver them than to out climb them. In most cases they will go right over the top or hang up in some cover on the hill. Send one person around the other side while the other one stays at the bottom of the hill. At some predetermined time both of you head up the hill from opposite sides. Be prepared for some fast action at the top of the hill, but also be sure of where the other hunter is before shooting.

LOCATING DOWNED QUAIL- You are standing in the area where you know the dead quail fell, but you don't see it. Now what? Look for loose feathers on the ground. Feathers are almost always left where they hit the ground. However, there often is another group of feathers dropped by a quail when shot that can be misleading. The reason they can be misleading is that the bird often travels a considerable distance beyond where it was hit, and if there is even the slightest breeze the feathers can drift a considerable distance from where it might be. The two groups can usually be told apart by where the feathers are found and how tightly the feathers are grouped. The feathers left on the ground where the bird lands are usually tightly bunched. Feathers from the in-air hit are usually found widely scattered and on top of shrubbery. Don't expect to find the quail sitting right there among the feathers. Most often they bounce or roll a few feet from the point of impact with the ground. When you find these feathers remember the direction it was heading when you rolled it. Search the area beyond the feathers in the same direction. If you have searched this area with no

success, double the distance beyond the feathers and search again. They usually travel further than you think they did. It is not unusual to spend 30 minutes searching for a single downed quail. You owe it to that bird to keep trying.

The creation of brushpiles and sources of water are methods used to increase quail numbers on wildlife areas and near rural homes. The DFG and other conservation groups have installed hundreds of underground water tanks or guzzlers, which collect rainwater for wildlife. Homeowners can provide water by allowing a hose to drip into a half barrel or basin placed on the ground.

SAFETY WHILE QUAIL HUNTING

Always know where all member of your hunting party are. Hunting parties should be kept to two or three. Larger parties should consider spreading out and splitting into small groups. If your party has found some quail, determine in which directions it would be safe to shoot.

Each person should wear blaze orange and talk with your buddies so that you know where they are. Camouflage clothing is not necessary for quail hunting; the quail know where you are regardless of what you wear. **If you have to chase down a crippled bird, make sure your gun is on safety. Take water for your dog and you.**

PLACES TO HUNT

Jackson State Forest on Hwy 20 between Fort Bragg and Willits; 50,200 acres of mixed coniferous forest, CA and mtn quail, band-tailed pigeon, cottontail rabbit and blue grouse. Jackson State Forest, PO Box 1185, 802 Main Street, Fort Bragg, CA 95437. 707 964-5674.

Cache Creek Wildlife Area (3,860 acre of DFG land) and Cache Creek Management Area (85,000 acres of BLM land) in Lake, Yolo and Colusa Counties. **Habitat:** Oak grassland and dense chaparral. **There are 3 access points.** **1. North Fork Cache Creek Trailhead;** from Interstate Highway 5 at Williams, go west on Highway 20 approximately 33 miles to the parking lot on the south side of the road. The entrance is immediately past where Highway 20 crosses over North Fork Cache Creek. From Highway 101 at Calpella, go east on Highway 20 about 48 miles to the parking lot. **2. Langs Peak Road Access;** take Highway 16 south of Highway 20 to County Road 40. Follow the winding switchbacks for 4.5 miles to Langs Peak Road. Langs Peak road is a 4WD road. **3. Davis Street Access;** take Highway 53 south off Highway 20 to 40th Avenue and turn left at the stop light. Make immediate left and follow to Davis Street. Access is to the left of the Clearlake landfill entrance. **Deer, bear, wild pig, coyote, wild turkey, CA and mtn quail, mourning dove, tree squirrel, band-tailed pigeon, cottontail and jackrabbit are present. An entry permit for hunting, issued by special drawing by the DFG, is required for the first two days of the spring turkey season.** The Payne Ranch (13,000 acres) was recently purchased to improve habitat for wildlife and the tule elk herd. BLM Ukiah office at 707 468-4000 or DFG at (707) 944-5500.

Indian Valley Wildlife Area (1,600 acres of DFG land) and Indian Valley Management Area (50,000 acres of BLM land) in Lake and Colusa Counties -Habitat: Dense chaparral with small scattered pockets of oak grassland. **Access:** About 27 miles west of Williams or 14 miles east of Clearlake Oaks on Highway 20 to Walker Ridge Road. Travel north on Walker Ridge Road to Indian Valley Reservoir. **Deer, bear, wild pig, coyote, wild turkey, waterfowl, CA and mtn quail, dove, tree squirrel, cottontail and jackrabbit are present.** The BLM has developed two campgrounds with water and restroom facilities. A boat ramp is available at the north and south ends of the lake. **Warmwater fishing in the reservoir for largemouth bass, crappie, rainbow trout, bluegill and catfish.** Cache Creek below the reservoir is planted with brown trout and is open during trout season. BLM in Ukiah at 707 468-4000.

Cow Mountain Recreation Area (50,000 acres of BLM land) in Lake and Mendocino Counties. **Habitat:** Rugged chaparral with some oak woodland. **Access from Ukiah,** 5 miles via Talmage and Mill Creek roads. **Access from Lakeport,** 5 miles via Scott Creek Road which is a rugged unimproved dirt road, and is closed during the winter due to impassable high water. Because these roads are narrow and winding with steep slopes, large recreational vehicles and travel trailers are not recommended. The rifle range, located just north of the Willow Creek Day Use Site, has been developed specifically for target shooting. There are 5 camping areas. **The 27,000 acre North Cow Mountain RA is closed to Off-Highway Vehicles.** The 23,000 acre South Cow Mountain Off-Highway Vehicle RA has developed roads for OHV recreation. Open to hunting all year during legal seasons. **Deer, bear, wild pig, coyote, wild turkey, CA quail, dove, tree squirrel, band-tailed pigeon, cottontail and jackrabbit are present.** Bureau of Land Mgt in Ukiah (707) 468-4000.

Knoxville Recreation Area in Lake and Napa Counties; (18,000 acres of BLM land) in Lake and Napa Counties. **Habitat:** Chaparral and cypress. About 2/3 of the area burned in 1999. **Access:** From Lower Lake take Morgan Valley Road 13 miles to the **north entrance.** The north entrance is 1 mile past the main gate to the McLaughlin Mine. The **south entrance** is three miles further south at the intersection with Devilshead Road. The south entrance is 17 miles from Lake Berryessa. A target shooting area is located near the northern entrance. There are developed roads for Off-Highway Vehicles. Camping is permitted in undeveloped locations throughout the recreation area. Hunting Creek Camp is located at the intersection of Dunnigan Hill Road and Hunting Creek Road at Hunting Creek. It has 5 sites with shade structures, tables, restrooms and water. All roads and trails are open to motorized vehicles. **Deer, wild pig, coyote, CA and mtn quail, dove, squirrel, and rabbit are present.** Bureau of Land Mgt in Ukiah 707 468-4000.

Knoxville Wildlife Area on the Berryessa-Knoxville Road north of Lake Berryessa; 8100 acres of DFG land ranging from 1000 to 2200 in elevation in Napa County. Chaparral and some oak woodland. Hunting is legal during designated seasons. Common game species include deer, wild turkey, quail, rabbit, gray squirrel, dove, pigeon and bear. Possession in the field and use of firearms and archery equipment is permitted only for the purpose of hunting. Target shooting is not allowed. Non-mechanized access only. Camping only in designated areas. **Access:** From Lower Lake on Highway 29 - Travel the Morgan Valley Road passed the McLaughlin Mine where the road becomes the Knoxville-Berryessa Road for about 17 miles. The Knoxville WA is also accessed on the southern side via Highway 128 East (Napa County) through Rutherford to the Knoxville-Berryessa Road (about 23 miles) or Highway 128 West through Winters (about 29 miles). Call the DFG at (707) 944-5531 for map and info.

Sheldon Creek Recreation Area (1000 acres of BLM land) in Mendocino County. Habitat: rugged chaparral. Access from Hopland, 10 miles east of Hopland via the Younce Road (Old Toll Road) (narrow, winding road). Open to hunting all year during legal seasons. **Deer, bear, wild pig, coyote, CA quail, dove, tree squirrel, band-tailed pigeon, cottontail and Jackrabbit are present.** Campground with water. Bureau of Land Mgt in Ukiah 707 468-4000.

Boggs Mountain State Forest on Hwy 29 near Hobergs; **3,393 acres of mixed coniferous forest.** Open to hunting all year during legal seasons. **Deer, bear, wild pig, CA and mtn. quail, wild turkey, tree squirrel, cottontail and Jackrabbit, and band-tailed pigeon are present.** Access: From State Highway 29 at Middletown take Highway 175 north about 9 miles to the state forest entrance. Improved campsites with no water are available at 2 campgrounds. Boggs Mtn. State Forest, PO Box 839, Cobb, CA 95426. 707 928-4378.

Mendocino NF in Glenn/Colusa/Mendocino/Lake Counties: CA and Mtn quail, band-tailed pigeon, tree squirrel cottontail rabbit and mourning dove; Mendocino NF in Stonyford - 530 963-3128.

Putah Creek Wildlife Area - Hunting daily from the opening of deer season (Zone A - archery) through January 31 - (673 acres) - About 10 miles west of Winters, off Highway 128. The area is on the south side of Putah Creek about 800 feet downstream from Monticello Dam, where Cold Creek enters Putah Creek. There is some parking available on the right as one crosses the Putah Creek Bridge. Most of the area is steep. Quail and deer are available. For a map call (916) 358-2900.

Horseshoe Ranch Wildlife Area - Hunting daily during hunting seasons - Type C wildlife area - 8600 acres of oak woodland. Location about 14 miles north of Yreka near the Oregon border. From the south, take the Henley-Hornbrook exit off Interstate 5 and proceed east (right) on Copco Road for about 12 miles to the Horseshoe Ranch Wildlife Area entrance sign and turn left for ¼ mile to the parking area. California and mountain quail, mourning dove, deer and black-tailed jackrabbits are present. For a map call (530) 459-3926.

Bass Hill Wildlife Area - Hunting daily during hunting seasons - Type C wildlife area - 3,515 acres of sagebrush uplands. Located about 6 miles SE of Susanville (Lassen County), adjacent to Highway 395. Mourning dove, cottontail rabbit, and black-tailed jackrabbit are present. For a map call (530) 254-6808.

Doyle Wildlife Area - Hunting daily during hunting seasons - Type C wildlife area - 14,013 acres of foothill and flatlands covered with trees and brush. Hunt along Long Valley Creek. Located 5 miles NE of Doyle via Highway 395 in Lassen County. **Cottontail rabbit, black-tailed jackrabbit, and chukar are present.** Four-wheel drive in wet weather. For a map call (530) 254-6808.

Cinder Flats Wildlife Area - Hunting daily during hunting seasons - Type C wildlife area - 720 acres of oak/gray pine woodland. Hunt the south end of the area around the lake. Located 2 miles NE of Cassel on Cassel Road in Shasta County. Road is not passable after heavy rain. **California and mountain quail, mourning dove and cottontail rabbit are present.** Call (530) 224-2300 for a map.

Mouth of Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area (571 acres of riparian habitat, mostly flat terrain) - Hunting daily during hunting seasons - Type C wildlife area - Located about ten miles east of Cottonwood, where Cottonwood Creek enters the Sacramento River. **Cottontail rabbit, black-tailed jackrabbit, mourning dove, and ring-necked pheasants are present.** No rifles or pistols may be used or possessed. Walk in access is adjacent to Adobe Road/Hacienda Road intersection. For a map call (530) 225-2300.

Paynes Creek Area (17,000 acres of blue oak woodland and riparian forest, many creeks) - Hunting daily during hunting seasons - Located between Cottonwood and Red Bluff in Tehama County. **Dove, quail, turkeys and waterfowl are available.** About five miles north of Red Bluff along I-5, take the Jelly's Ferry offramp going east. Take the Bend Ferry Road across and follow it to the Paynes Creek RA. The best hunting areas are accessible by foot only. For further info contact the BLM in Redding at (530) 224-2100.

Tehama Wildlife Area (44,601 acres) - Type C area - Open for hunting all year except for the southern portion of the wildlife area, south of Hogsback Road, which is closed to public entry from February 1 to the first Saturday in April for the purpose of not disturbing wintering deer. The wildlife area is generally open to all hunting except for the G-1 Late Season buck Hunt for Zone C-4. G-1 USE PERMITS are issued by drawing for that season which generally begins the 4th Saturday in October and extends for 9 days. No pig hunting except during April/May by USE PERMIT only. **Access:** Headquarters is located 23 miles east of Red Bluff via Highway 36 and south on Plum Creek Road. Hogsback Road enters the wildlife area 16 miles east of Red Bluff. Quail can be found throughout the brushy habitat. Best turkey hunting areas are Plum and Oak Creeks, and De-haven Gulch. For info and a map call (530) 597-2201.

Lassen National Forest (NF) in Plumas County: Mtn quail, blue grouse, and band-tailed pigeons; Almanor Ranger District in Chester 530 258-2141.

Plumas NF in Plumas/Butte/Sierra Counties: Mtn and CA quail, tree squirrel, band-tailed pigeon, and blue grouse; Plumas NF in Quincy 530 283-2050.

Oroville Wildlife Area - 11,371 acres - Hunting daily from September 1 - January 31 and spring turkey season. Spring turkey hunting is by drawing only. Best pheasant hunting is around the Thermolito Afterbay. The Oroville Junior Pheasant Hunt usually takes place on the 2nd Saturday of pheasant season near the Thermolito Afterbay. The Afterbay is located between Highway's 99 and 70 about 4.5 miles west of Oroville on Highway 162. Pheasant, waterfowl, rabbit, quail, dove, tree squirrel, dove, chukar, bobwhite, coyote, and deer hunting are also available. Spring wild turkey hunting by drawing only. No fall turkey hunting. Shotguns and archery equipment only. Call 530 538-2236 for info.

Lake Oroville State Recreation Area - Hunting daily from September 15 through January 31 and for wild turkeys only during the spring wild turkey season - (4,150 acres) - 7 miles east of Oroville via Hwy 162; boat access to much of the area. Shotgun and archery hunting only. The majority of the Recreation Area lands consist of a narrow strip surrounding Oroville Lake extending a minimum of 300 feet from the high water line to one-half mile or more in some areas. Some U.S. Forest Service and BLM lands adjoin the Recreation Area. CA and mtn quail, wild turkey, band-tailed pigeon, rabbits, squirrels and pheasant are also available. No waterfowl or deer hunting allowed. Hunting on or from the water surface of Lake Oroville is prohibited. For a map contact the Lake Oroville State Recreation Area, 400 Glen Drive, Oroville, CA 95966 or call (916) 538-2200 or 538-2219.

Daugherty Hill WA - Hunting daily from July 1 through January 31 and during the spring turkey season (4,200 acres) - 21 miles east of Marysville via Hwy 20, Marysville Road, and Dolan Harding Road. CA quail, tree squirrel, wild turkey, mourning dove, band-tailed pigeons, and deer are also available. For a map call (530) 743-5068.

Tahoe NF in Placer/Nevada/Sierra/Yuba Counties; CA and mtn quail, tree squirrel, band-tailed pigeons, blue grouse, and deer are also available. Access via Highway 49, Placene Ridge Road, Highway 20 and Interstate 80. Call Tahoe NF in Nevada City at 530 265-4531.

Spenceville Wildlife Area - Hunting daily from September 1 through January 31 and during the spring turkey season - 11,213 acres - 18 miles east of Marysville via Hammonton-Smartsville Road. Quail, tree squirrel, wild turkey, deer, band-tailed pigeons, and mourning dove hunting are also available. For a map call (530) 743-5068.

Sutter Bypass Wildlife Area - Hunting daily - 4,034 acres along the levee on much of both sides of the Sutter Bypass and the Tisdale Bypass. Other game includes waterfowl, dove, quail, tree squirrels, rabbits, coyotes, crows, ground squirrels and wild turkey. The Tisdale Bypass is about 10 miles south of the town of Sutter, where Reclamation Road crosses the Tisdale Weir. Pheasant, waterfowl, rabbit, dove, tree squirrel, wild turkey, coyote, and deer hunting also available. Shotguns and archery equipment only. For a map call (530) 743-5068.

Nelson Slough Wildlife Area - Hunting daily from July 1 through January 31 and during spring turkey season - 800 acres under the Highway 99-Feather River Bridge 23 miles north of Sacramento and 17 miles south of Yuba City. A Sutter-Yuba Junior Pheasant Hunt usually takes place here on the weekend before pheasant season. Access is either east or west of Highway 99 on Sacramento Avenue. Sacramento Avenue is one mile north of the Feather River Bridge near Nicolaus. Pheasant, waterfowl, rabbit, quail, dove, tree squirrel, dove, wild turkey, coyote, and deer hunting also available. Shotguns and archery equipment only. For a map call (530) 743-5068.

O'Connor Lakes/Abbott Lake Wildlife Areas- Hunting daily from July 1 to January 31 and spring turkey season - 910 acres. Located about 10 miles south of Yuba City and 25 miles north of Sacramento. Walk in access at the end of Star Bend Road off Garden Highway in Sutter County. Star Bend Road is located 2 miles north of the intersection of Highway 99 and Garden Highway near the Tudor area. ***Pheasant, waterfowl, rabbit, quail, dove, tree squirrel, dove, wild turkey, coyote, and deer hunting are also available. Shotguns and archery equipment only.*** For a map call (530) 743-5068.

Lake of the Woods and Star Bend Wildlife Areas - Hunting every day from July 1 to January 31 and spring turkey season - 750 acres. Located about 10 miles south of Marysville and 25 miles north of Sacramento on Feather River Boulevard. Walk in access from the Star Bend Boat Ramp parking lot. The 700 acre Lake of the Woods WA begins 3/10 of a mile south of the Star Bend Boat Ramp and extends 5 miles south to the Bear River. The 50 acre Star Bend WA begins 4/10 of a mile upstream of the Star Bend Boat Ramp. ***Pheasant, waterfowl, rabbit, quail, dove, tree squirrel, dove, wild turkey, coyote, and deer hunting also available. Shotguns and archery equipment only.*** For a map call (530) 743-5068.

Auburn State Recreation Area (42,000 acres) in Placer/EI Dorado Counties; CA quail, wild turkey, mourning dove, band-tailed pigeon, and deer are also available. Located 1 mile south of Auburn on Hwy 49. Auburn SRA at 530 885-4527 or 988-0205.

EI Dorado NF in EI Dorado/Placer/Amador/Alpine Counties; CA and mtn quail, tree squirrel, band-tailed pigeon, wild turkey, blue grouse, and deer. Access via Highways 50 and 88. Call EI Dorado NF in Placerville 530 622-5061.

Hope Valley Wildlife Area – Hunting open daily from the opening of archery deer season through January 31 – 2,869 acres of ponderosa pine, sagebrush and grassland. Mountain quail, blue grouse, deer, mourning dove and cottontail rabbit are present. Located about 6 miles NW of Markleeville at the junction of Highway 88 and 89. Surrounded by the EI Dorado and Toiyabe NF. For a map call (916) 358-2900.

White Slough Wildlife Area - Hunting everyday from September 1 through January 31- 880 acres. Four separate parcels about 8 miles west of Lodi. Pond 5 Area is north of Woodbridge Road; Pond 6 Area is north of Woodbridge road; Ponds 7 and 8 are east of Guard Road; and Ponds 9 through 13 are along the frontage road on the west side of Highway 5. ***Waterfowl, quail, and dove hunting are also available. Shotguns and archery equipment only.*** For a map call (530) 743-5068

New Hogan Lake - Hunting every day - 400 acres- 30 miles east of Stockton. Quail, mourning dove, waterfowl, and rabbits are also available. Shotguns and archery equipment only. Access via Hwy 12. Corps of Engineers (209) 772-1343.

New Melones Lake (2,500 acres) 25 miles east of Oakdale; Access via Hwy 108/120 to Hwy 49; CA quail, mourning dove. Bureau of Reclamation (209) 536-9094.

Stanislaus NF in Calaveras and Alpine Counties; CA and mtn quail, tree squirrel, band-tailed pigeon, wild turkey, blue grouse, and deer. Access via Hwy 4. Stanislaus NF in Sonora 209 532-3671.

In an effort to aid quail hunters the Department of Fish and Game has published a Guide to Hunting the Quail of California, which contains helpful information on hunting opportunities. You can view this publication at the DFG web site: www.dfg.ca.gov/coned/quailguide.pdf. If you would like to discuss methods to increase quail numbers on either private or public lands, or if there are errors/omissions in this article, please call Wildlife Biologist Dale Whitmore at 530 743-5068.

Department of Fish and Game 2005/2006 Hunt Schedule for Carrizo Plain Ecological Reserve, Chimineas Unit near Paso Robles and Santa Maria

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) will provide hunting opportunities on the Chimineas Unit of the Carrizo Plain Ecological Reserve in 2005/2006, including additional opportunities for mobility-impaired hunters. During the appropriate seasons, walk-on hunting for dove, rabbits, quail, and wild pigs will be limited to Wednesdays and Saturdays during the first half of September and throughout the months of December, January and February.

All access will be restricted during October and November during the elk hunting seasons and the Chimineas Unit will be closed to hunting between March and September. Walk-on access is only available from Highway 166 about 45 miles east of Santa Maria. Free access permits will be available at the feed lot parking lot and at the Caliente Peak trailhead about 50 miles east of Paso Robles on Highway 58.

Vehicle access for hunting will occur on three weekends. Twenty-five permits will be drawn for each of these two-day hunts and each permit is good for two hunters. To apply for one of these hunts, applicants need to submit a self-addressed envelope and a letter or postcard with the hunter's name, address, telephone number, and hunting license number to:

California Department of Fish & Game, 20 Lower Ragsdale Road, Suite 100, Monterey, CA 93940

For the first time, DFG will offer five additional permits for each hunt to mobility-impaired hunters to allow them to gain access to the property. The application process is the same as for the regular drawing above. Applicants should add the words "Special Draw" to the Attention line when addressing their envelope to the Department. Successful applicants will need to show either a Mobility Impaired Disabled Persons Motor Vehicle Hunting License or a standard handicap vehicle placard or license plate on the day of the hunt. If more than five applicants apply, there will be a drawing among the mobility-impaired applicants.

Applicants may submit only one application for each hunt and applications need to be received at the address above by 5 p.m. on the due date. Applications received late, incomplete, or without a self-addressed envelope will not be considered in the draw. Successful applicants will receive additional information, including maps and special regulations, prior to the hunt.

The first drive-on hunt will be Sept. 10-11, 2005 for dove, pig and rabbit. Applications must be received by Aug. 11. Include "Attention: September Chimineas Hunt" when addressing an envelope to DFG.

The second drive-on hunt will be Dec. 10-11, 2005 for dove, quail, pig and rabbit. Applications must be received by Nov. 10. Include "Attention: December Chimineas Hunt" when addressing an envelope to DFG.

The last drive-on hunt will be Jan. 7-8, 2006 for quail, pig and rabbit. Applications must be received by Dec. 18. Include "Attention: January Chimineas Hunt" when addressing an envelope to DFG.

Contact Robert Stafford or Terry Palmisano at (831) 649-2870 for more info and a map.

2005/2006 Waterfowl Hunting Opportunities for Eden Landing Ecological Reserve

The Department of Fish and Game will be providing several waterfowl hunting opportunities on a portion of the 6,381-acre Eden Landing Ecological Reserve (ELER) on the east side of San Francisco Bay near the City of Hayward. ELER is composed of former industrial salt ponds currently managed as low salinity ponds to provide waterbird habitat. Public access to ELER is currently limited to the public lottery waterfowl hunts. Drive-on and walk-on access to ELER for waterfowl hunting will be by permit only on the specified dates. A boat or a dog for retrieval will be necessary in the salt ponds for successful hunting due to site conditions.

Access for hunting will occur on four weekends and two weekdays. Fifty permits will be drawn for each of these one-day hunts and each permit is good for two (2) hunters. Junior hunters must possess a junior hunting license, and can take either another licensed junior hunter or a licensed adult hunter. Two junior hunters must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult. Vehicle access for the purpose of launching boats for waterfowl hunting will only be allowed on the hunt date. To apply for one of these hunts, applicants need to submit a self-addressed envelope and a letter or postcard with the hunter's name, address, telephone number and hunting license number to:

California Department of Fish & Game, ATTN: (Desired Month/date) ELER Hunt, 20 Lower Ragsdale Drive, Suite 100, Monterey, CA 93940

Applicants may only submit a single application for each hunt period and applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on the deadline date. Applications received late, incomplete, or without a self-addressed envelope will not be considered in the draw. Successful applicants will receive additional information, including maps and special regulations, prior to their hunt. A first-come, first-served wait line will be offered to claim any no-show reservations on each hunt date.

Hunt Dates

Sat. Nov. 5, 2005, deadline Oct. 3.

Thurs. Nov. 17, 2005, deadline Oct 17.

Sat. Dec 3, 2005, deadline Nov. 17.

Sat. Dec. 17, 2005, deadline Nov. 16

Wed. Jan 11, 2006, deadline Dec. 9.

Sat. Jan. 21, 2006, deadline Dec. 20

Formal plans for public access opportunities at ELER in addition to hunting are being developed as part of the South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Project (www.southbayrestoration.org).

Free Northern California Wildlife Area (WA) Map Booklet

Free maps for public lands are available by calling (530) 743-5068, mention free **MAP BOOKLET** and leave your mailing address on the recorder. Habitat projects such as conservation easements, mourning dove nest cones, rockpiles/brushpiles, wood duck and bluebird box plans are also included. This is the June 2003 edition.

Upland Game – General Seasons, 2005-2006

Pheasant: Nov. 12 – Dec. 25, 2005; Daily Bag Limit (DBL)– 2 males per day for first 2 days of the season, 3 males per day after first 2 days of the season. Possession Limit (PL)– double the DBL.

Archery Only Pheasant: Nov. 12-Jan. 10; DBL- 2 pheasants per day for first 2 days of the season, 3 pheasants per day after first 2 days of the season. Daily archery bag may contain not more than 1 female pheasant. Possession Limit (PL)– double the DBL.

All Quail: Daily Bag Limit (DBL) – 10 quail in any combination of species per day. Possession Limit – double the DBL. Same for all quail in Zones A, B, and C.

Mountain Quail Only– Zone A: Sept. 10 – Oct. 14, 2005

All Quail – Zone A: Oct. 15, 2005 – Jan. 29, 2006

All Quail – Zone B: Sept. 24, 2005 – Jan. 29, 2006

All Quail – Zone C: Oct. 15, 2005 – Jan. 29, 2006

Archery Only Quail: Aug. 20 – Sept. 9, 2005

Falconry Only Quail: Oct. 1, 2005 - Feb. 28, 2006

All Chukar- Daily Bag Limit (DBL) – 6 chukar per day; PL – double the DBL.

Chukar (Red-legged Partridges): Oct. 15, 2005 – Jan. 29, 2006

Archery Only Chukar: Aug. 20 – Sept. 9, 2005.

Falconry Only Chukar: Oct. 1, 2005 – Feb. 28, 2006.

All Blue/Ruffed Grouse*: Daily Bag Limit (DBL) – 2 of all one species or mixed, PL – double the DBL.

Blue/Ruffed Grouse: Sep. 10 – Oct. 10, 2005.

Archery Only Blue/Ruffed Grouse: Aug. 20 – Sept. 9, 2005.

Falconry Only Blue/Ruffed Grouse: Oct. 1, 2005 – Feb. 28, 2006.

All Ptarmigan*: Daily Bag Limit and PL – 2 per day or season.

Ptarmigan: Sept. 10-18, 2005

Falconry Only Ptarmigan: Oct. 1, 2005 – Feb. 28, 2006

Wild Turkeys (Fall)*: Nov. 12-27, 2005; Daily Bag Limit-1 either-sex turkey per day, PL- 1 per season.

Wild Turkeys (Spring): March 25-April 30, 2006; DBL for Spring Seasons-1 bearded turkey per day, PL-3 per season.

Archery Only Wild Turkey(Spring): May 1-May 14, 2006.

Band-tailed Pigeon – Northern Zone: Sept. 17-25, 2005; DBL in both zones – DBL-2 B-t pigeons per day, PL-double the DBL (4 pigeons).

Band-tailed Pigeon – Southern Zone: Dec. 17-25, 2005

Mourning Doves: Sept. 1-15, 2005 and Nov. 12-Dec. 26, 2005; DBL-10 per day, PL-double the DBL.

Common Snipe: Oct. 15, 2005 – Jan. 29, 2006; DBL-8 per day, PL-double the DBL(16 snipe).

American Crow*: Dec. 3, 2005 – April 5, 2006; DBL-24 per day, PL-double the DBL(48 crows).

Tree Squirrels*- Northern and Central California Counties: Sept. 10, 2005 – Jan. 29, 2006, DBL and PL-4 per day and 4 in possession.

Brush, Cottontail and Pygmy Rabbits, and Varying Hare (snowshoe)*– w/exception in San Joaquin Co.: July 1, 2005 – Jan. 29, 2006; DBL-5 per day, PL-double the DBL (10 rabbits).

Black-tailed and White-tailed jackrabbits: All year, no limit.

Sage Grouse: Sept. 10-11. 2005; Hunting by permit only.

The shooting hours for most upland game birds (including fall turkey season - one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Exceptions: *pheasants - 8:00 a.m. to sunset*; and **spring wild turkey season - one-half hour before sunrise to 4:00 p.m.**

Shooting hours for resident small game mammals and big game– one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. *For these species, a portion of the state is closed to hunting. Check regulations.

Yuba and Sutter County Fish and Game Commission Needs Commissioners

The County Fish and Game Commissions in most of the counties of California create and support projects for the conservation of fish and wildlife. Fines are collected from the fish and game lawbreakers. Half of the fine money is deposited into the county fish and wildlife fund to be spent for a number of purposes which include wildlife habitat improvement, education about wildlife, and hunting/fishing programs. The other half is used by the Dept. of Fish and Game.

Fish and Game Commissioners usually meet once a month to develop and implement plans for improving our wildlife heritage for future generations. The members are united in their common belief that this is a way to give to the next generation the great times that they have enjoyed while hunting, fishing, or hiking in the outdoors.

The Yuba and Sutter County Fish and Game Commissions are looking for volunteer commissioners to further develop the many habitat, hunting, and fishing projects which they support. If you are a resident of Yuba or Sutter Counties, you want to be involved with wildlife oriented projects, and want to donate your time for youth, please attend the appropriate meeting to become familiar with the commissions.

Yuba County – 5:30 PM on the first Thursday of each month at the new Yuba County government building next to Albertson's in Marysville. Next meetings are Oct. 6, Nov. 3, Dec. 2, Jan. 5, etc. Call Chairman Frank Allen at 530 692-0709 for more info.

Sutter County – 7:00 PM on the second Thursday of each month at the Board of Supervisors meeting room in the old Hall of Records on Second Street in Yuba City. Next meetings are Oct. 13, Nov. 10, Dec. 9, Jan. 12, etc. Call Chairman Chuck Wyllie at (530) 671-9250.

SUMMARY OF THE 2005-06 WATERFOWL HUNTING REGULATIONS

DUCKS – BAG LIMITS (ALL ZONES)

7 per day; 14 in possession, including up to 5 mallards, but not more than 1 hen mallard (except in the Colorado River Zone where the regulations have to match Arizona w/7 mallards and 2 hen mallards), 1 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redhead and 3 scaup.

SEASON DATES - DUCKS

Northeastern California Zone: 105 day straight season - October 8 to January 20 Except canvasbacks: October 29 to December 18 and January 12 -20.

Balance of the State Zone: 100 day straight season - October 22 to January 29. Except canvasbacks: December 1 to January 29

Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone: 100 day straight season - October 22 to January 29. Except canvasback: December 1 – January 29

Southern California Zone: 100 day straight season - October 22 to January 29 Except canvasback: December 1 to January 29

Colorado River Zone: 101 day straight season - October 21 to January 29 Except canvasback: December 1 to January 29

GEESE

Northeastern California – 100 day season – October 8 to January 15. Bag Limit - 4 per day, 4 may be white geese and 2 may be dark geese, not more than one of which may be a small Canada goose (including Aleutian Canada geese).

Southern San Joaquin Valley, and Balance of State (*note) zones – 100 day season – October 22 to January 29. Bag Limit - 4 per day, 4 may be white geese and 3 may be white-fronted geese* and large Canada geese, 4 may be small Canada geese. *Note – Except in the Sacramento Valley (West) Special Management Area where the white-fronted goose season will open October 29 through December 14 and the bag limit is only 2 white-fronted geese.

Southern California zone – 100 day season – October 22 to January 29. Bag Limit - 5 per day, 4 may be white geese and 3 may be dark geese.

Colorado River zone – 101 day season – October 21 to January 29. Bag Limit 6 per day, 4 may be white geese and 3 may be dark geese.

BRANT

Northern Brant Special Management Area (Del Norte, Humboldt and Mendocino counties) Nov 16-Nov 30

Balance of State Brant Special Management Area (all remaining counties) Dec 1- Dec 15

YOUTH HUNT DAYS

Northeastern Zone: September 24 and 25

Balance of State, Southern San Joaquin Valley, and Southern California Zones: February 4 and 5

Colorado River Zone: February 4

Spinning-wing Decoys: (same as 2003)

"Prohibition on Electronic or Mechanically-operated Devices. Electronic or mechanically-operated calling or sound-reproducing devices are prohibited when attempting to take migratory game birds. It is unlawful to use electronic or mechanically-operated spinning blade devices or spinning wing decoys when attempting to take waterfowl between the start of waterfowl season and November 30. For the purposes of this regulation, wind-powered spinning blade devices and kites are not prohibited."

Sacramento Valley opener on state and federal areas – All areas plan to open on October 22.

Waterfowl season forecast –The breeding population of mallards increased 21% and the number of total ducks increased 49% during the California spring breeding survey. Mallards, however, are still below the long-term average. "We expect better production and a larger fall flight this year because of the late, abundant spring rains," said Dan Yparraguirre, Senior Biologist Specialist. Interested in waterfowl regulations, go to www.dfg.ca.gov/wmd/05-06regrecs. For the breeding duck surveys see www.dfg.ca.gov/wmd/waterfowl program.

CA Duck Days in Davis

Come celebrate California Duck Days on February 24 and 25, 2006, a wetlands festival in the heart of the Pacific Flyway. A gala reception for everyone interested in wetlands and wildlife will launch the festivities on Friday evening. In addition to refreshments and good company, the reception at the Davis Art Center at Covell and F Streets in Davis, will feature an outstanding wildlife art exhibit by Yolo County high school students. On Saturday, the festival will feature one full day of field trips and workshops at the Yolo Wildlife Area Headquarter facility in South Davis. Among the dozen field trips to be offered are "Local Owling" and "Wildlife Friendly Farming at the Conaway Ranch". Workshops will be held throughout the day and include "Waterfowl Drawing", "Bird Dog Demonstrations" and "Bird and Bat Box Building". The always-popular Mallard ducklings will be on display as well as the Junior Duck Stamp Art Collection.

The cost for the CA Duck Days is \$20 per person, and children under 16 are free when accompanied by an adult. All participants must pre-register due to limited space on field trips and workshops. For more information and registration materials, please call the Yolo Basin Foundation at 530-757-3780 or check www.yolobasin.org.

Youth Waterfowl Hunt Day Questions and Answers

At their August 2005 meeting, the Fish and Game Commission adopted regulations that scheduled the annual Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days for the 5 waterfowl hunt zones.

When are the Youth Waterfowl Hunt Days in California? *February 4 and 5, 2006 In the Balance of the State, Southern San Joaquin Valley, and Southern California Zones.* In the Northeastern California Zone the youth days are September 24 & 25, 2005 and the Colorado River Zone youth hunt day is February 4, 2006.

How do I apply for a reservation for the public areas and what areas will be open? For hunting on wildlife areas apply on a standard waterfowl reservation application and mail it to the address in Sacramento indicated on the application. Be sure the application is received at least 17 days before the Youth Waterfowl Hunt Day (January 19). **In the Sacramento Valley** the following areas will be open for the junior waterfowl hunt days: **Yolo Bypass WA, Gray Lodge WA, Little Dry Creek Unit of the Upper Butte Basin WA, and the Sacramento, Delevan, and Colusa NWR's.** **In the San Joaquin Valley** the following areas will be open: **Los Banos WA, Volta WA; the Salt Slough Unit, Gadwall Unit and the China Island Unit of the North Grasslands WA; Blue Goose Unit, Kesterson Unit, San Luis Unit, West Bear Creek Unit and the Frietas Unit of the San Luis NWR; the Mendota WA, Kern NWR (Sat. only) and the Merced NWR(Sat. until noon only).** **In the Bay Area, the Napa-Sonoma Marshes WA, Grizzly Island WA and the San Francisco Bay NWR will all be open.** **In Northern California, Humboldt Bay NWR (Sat. only), Lake Earl WA and Shasta Valley WA will be open.**

Can I hunt without a reservation on the public hunt areas? Yes, if there is space available. In the past, the public areas have had ample spaces.

Can I apply for more than one area? Yes, you may send one waterfowl reservation application for each area where you might like to hunt.

Who can go with me and can they shoot? You must be accompanied by an adult 18 years old or older when hunting a public waterfowl area but that person may NOT shoot. They are there to supervise and guide you only and perhaps take pictures to record your hunt.

Will it cost anything for me to hunt or my chaperone to enter the public hunt area? No, it will not cost any money for you or your chaperone to participate in the Youth Waterfowl Hunt Day. It is FREE!!!

Can I hunt on a private property? Certainly, if you have written permission from the land owner.

How do I apply for a reservation on a private duck club? The Dept. of Fish and Game is unable to help sponsor junior duck hunts on private property in 2006, as it has for several years.

What species can I hunt? All waterfowl species that are in season and legal to hunt.

What are the shoot hours? The shooting hours for migratory game birds, including mourning doves, white-winged doves, band-tailed pigeons, American coots, common moorhens, common snipe, and waterfowl for all of California shall be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

I purchased my Junior Hunting License when I was 15 years old but I am now 16. Can I participate in the Youth Waterfowl Shoot Day? No. You must be 15 or younger to hunt the special Youth Waterfowl Shoot Day as per Federal regulations.

For more information on Youth Waterfowl Hunt Days, call the California Waterfowl Association at (916) 648-1406 or visit these web sites: www.calwaterfowl.org or www.dfg.ca.gov.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Sacramento NWR and Delevan NWR "Junior Waterfowl Hunts"

Junior Waterfowl Hunts are planned for Saturday, December 10, 2005 at Sacramento NWR and Saturday, December 17, 2005 at Delevan NWR. Junior hunters will be selected from reservation applications postmarked during November 1-30, 2005.

For the application process use only a standard U.S. Postal Service card. Give full name, address, telephone number, hunt choice, and hunting license number for each junior hunter applying. Up to two junior hunters may apply per card. One adult (18 years of age or older) may accompany up to two juniors but no more than four people can occupy one blind. Only one application for each hunt may be submitted. Use a separate postcard for each refuge and specify either Sacramento NWR or Delevan NWR. Mail postcards to: Refuge Manager, Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, 752 County Road 99 W, Willows, CA 95988. Drawing results will be posted on the refuge website (<http://SacramentoValleyRefuges.fws.gov>.) A letter of confirmation, with a numbered Junior Hunting Permit, will be returned at least 7 days prior to the hunt day. The number on the permit will determine the hunting party's sequence of entry. Adults cannot hunt. Retrieving dogs, decoys, and chest waders are recommended. There is no entry fee for this hunt.

Lottery Draw. Those not receiving a numbered reservation for the junior duck hunt will be able to enter a lottery draw held at 5:30 a.m. on the morning of the hunt. This draw will be used to fill no-shows and refill the blinds. The procedure for entering the lottery draw is as follows: 1) Hunters must fill out only one lottery card per hunting party, 2) Hunters may enter the lottery at the check station beginning at 6:00 p.m. the day before the hunt until 5:30 a.m. the morning of the hunt, 3) After filling out a lottery card, hunters may leave the parking area but must be present for the lottery draw, 4) Hunters arriving after the lottery draw will be added to first-come, first-served list. Displays and activities pertaining to waterfowl management, hunting ethics, and hunting techniques will be available. For further info call Sacramento NWR at (530) 934-2801.

- 1 Brush-up Day, Sacramento & Delevan National Wildlife Refuges, Glenn County. Free (530) 934-2801
- 1 Mendota Wildlife Area Cleanup, Fresno County. 8a.m. Free (559) 655-4645
- 1 TarantulaFest and Fall BBQ, Santa Clara. 10am-4 pm. \$ (408) 779-2728 www.coepark.org
- 2 Beach Clean Up, San Francisco Zoo. 10 am-12pm. Free (415) 753-7073 www.sfzoo.org
- 8 Welcome Back Monarchs Day, Santa Cruz. 10am-4 pm (831) 423-4609 (800) 833-3494 www.santacruzca.org
- 8 Sierra Valley Headwater Honker Preserve Junior Pheasant Hunt, Plumas County. Free (916) 358-2839 www.dfg.ca.gov
- 8 Trinity County Salmon Festival, Trinity County. Free (530) 623-6004. www.tcrd.net
- 8 Shark Day: Celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week, Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Alviso. (408) 262-5513 www.fws.gov/pacific/desfbay/
- 8-9 American River Salmon Festival, Sacramento County. 10am-4 pm. (916) 358-2884 or (916) 361-8700 www.salmonfestival.net/
- 9-10 California Deer Association and DFG Junior Wild Pig Hunt, Canada de los Osos Ecological Reserve, Santa Clara County. Apply by Sept 15, (831)649-2870 www.CalDeer.com www.dfg.ca.gov
- 9-15 Refuge Week, Modoc NWR. Free (530)233-3572 <http://modoc.fws.gov/>
- 12 Last day to apply for California Deer Association and DFG Fall Junior Turkey Hunt, Canada de los Osos Ecological Reserve, Santa Clara County. (831) 649-2870 www.CalDeer.com www.dfg.ca.gov
- 15 Junior Quail Hunt, Millerton Lake, Madera County. (559) 243-4005 ext 165
- 15 Junior Quail Hunt, Springville, Tulare County. (559) 243-4005 ext 165
- 15-16 California Deer Association and DFG Fall Junior Pig Hunt, Canada de los Osos Ecological Reserve, Santa Clara County. Apply by Sept 15, (831) 649-2870 www.CalDeer.com www.dfg.ca.gov
- 15 Junior Quail Hunts, San Joaquin Valley and Southern Sierra Region. Free, apply by Sept 23rd. (559) 243-4005 ext. 133 www.dfg.ca.gov
- 15 Return of the Salmon Festival, Shasta County. Free (530) 225-2566, (530) 365-8622 <http://www.shastacascade.org/shasta/shcoe.htm>
- 15 Lodi Salmon Festival, San Joaquin County. \$ (209) 333-6742 www.lodichamber.com www.mgzoo.com
- 16 Truckee River Day, Nevada County. Free (530) 550-8760 www.truckeeriverday.org
- 22 Crane Tour Day at Merced NWR, Merced County. Free (209) 826-3508 <http://sanluis.fws.gov>
- 29 Shooting Pumpkins: Youth Archery Clinic, El Dorado Hills. \$ youth ten years of age or older (916) 653-7748.
- 29 Yuba County Fish and Game Commission Junior Pheasant Hunt, Sutter County. Free, a.m. and p.m.hunts (530) 743-5068, (916) 358-2839 www.dfg.ca.gov
- 30 Sutter County Fish and Game Commission Junior Pheasant Hunt, Sutter County. Free, a.m. and p.m.hunts (530)743-5068, (916) 358- 2839 www.dfg.ca.gov
- 31 Boo at the Zoo, Sacramento Zoo. 4:30-8:30 pm. \$ (916) 264-5888 www.saczoo.com
- TBA Junior Waterfowl Hunts at Lower Klamath NWR, Siskiyou County, 2nd and 3rd Saturdays after season starts and Saturday following Thanksgiving. Junior hunts afternoon. (916) 358-2877

November 2005

- Apply for December youth waterfowl hunts in November.
- 4-6 Sandhill Crane Festival, San Joaquin County. \$ (209) 367-7840 www.lodichamber.com/cranefestival.asp
- 5-6 Yuba-Sutter CDFG Junior Pheasant Hunt, Yuba County. Free, a.m. and p.m.hunts (916) 358-2839 www.dfg.ca.gov
- 5-6 Junior Pheasant Hunt, Honey Lake Wildlife Area, Lassen County. (530) 254-6644 www.dfg.ca.gov
- 12 Birding with Brian, Willows, Glenn County. \$ (916) 653-7748
- 12-13 California Deer Association and DFG Fall Junior Turkey Hunt, Canada de los Osos Ecological Reserve, Santa Clara County. Apply by Oct 12. (831) 649-2870 www.CalDeer.com www.dfg.ca.gov
- 12-13 Junior Wild Turkey Hunt, U.C. Field Station, Browns Valley, Yuba County. (530) 743-5068 www.dfg.ca.gov
- 12-13 Junior Wild Turkey Hunt, Lake Sonoma, Sonoma County. (707) 944-5500 www.dfg.ca.gov
- 12-13 Taft Junior Pheasant Hunt, Kern County. Reservations required. (559) 243-4005
- 12-13 Mapes Ranch Modesto Junior Pheasant Hunt, Stanislaus County. Reservations required. (559) 243-4005 ext 133
- 13 San Jacinto Wildlife Area Junior Pheasant Hunt, Riverside County. Reservations required. (760) 922-4686 www.dfg.ca.gov
- 19 Gray Lodge Wildlife Area Junior Pheasant Hunt, Butte County. Free (530) 846-7500, (916) 358-2839 www.dfg.ca.gov
- 19 Junior Pheasant Hunts at Mendota Wildlife Area. Reservations required. (559) 243-4005 ext 132 or 133
- 19 Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Junior Pheasant Hunt, Yolo County. Free (530) 757-246, (916) 358-2839 www.dfg.ca.gov
- 19-20 www.yolobasin.org
- 19-20 Junior Pheasant Hunt, Lake Isabella, Kern County. Reservations required. \$ (760) 379-3482, (760) 376-2804, (916) 358-2877 www.dfg.ca.gov
- 19-20 Little Dry Creek Wildlife Area Junior Pheasant Hunt, Butte County. Free (530) 982-2169, (916) 358-2839 www.dfg.ca.gov
- 19-20 Delta Islands Wildlife Area Junior Pheasant Hunt, Sacramento County. Reservations required.
- 19-20 (209) 948-7068, (916) 358-2839 www.dfg.ca.gov
- Success Lake Junior Pheasant Hunt, Tulare County. Reservations required. (559) 781-6087
- 19-20 Lake Mendocino Jr. Wild Turkey Hunt, Mendocino County. Reservations required.(707) 456-0329
- 19, 26 O'Neill Forebay Wildlife Area Junior Pheasant Hunts, Merced County. Reservations required. (209) 826-0463
- 20 Junior Pheasant Hunt, Modoc National Wildlife Refuge. (530) 233-3572 <http://modoc.fws.gov/junior.htm>
- 25 Thankzoo, Sacramento Zoo. 10 am-4 pm. Free (916) 264-5888 www.saczoo.com
- 26 Junior Waterfowl Hunt, Klamath NWR. Free (916) 358-2877.
- 26 Oroville Wildlife Area Junior Pheasant Hunt, Oroville Wildlife Area, Butte County. Free, a.m. and p.m. hunts (530) 538-2236, (916) 358-2839 www.dfg.ca.gov

December 2005

December thru March, Bald Eagle Count, San Bernardino County, (760) 389-2281 http://parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_rd=650



- 3 Junior Pheasant Hunts at Mendota Wildlife Area. Reservations required. (559) 243-4005 ext 132 or 133
- 10 Sacramento NWR Youth Waterfowl Hunt, Glenn County. Apply in November. Free (530) 934-2801
<http://sacramentovalleyrefuges.fws.gov>
- 11 Llano Seco Ranch Junior Pheasant Hunt, Butte County. Apply in November. Free (530) 934-2801
<http://sacramentovalleyrefuges.fws.gov>
- 14 - Jan 5 Christmas Bird Count, Across the State. (323) 221-2255 www.audubon.org/bird/cbc
- 12-13 Grizzly Island Junior Waterfowl Hunts, Solano County. Apply in November. Free (707) 425-3828
- 17 Delevan NWR Youth Waterfowl Hunt, Colusa County. Apply in November. Free (530) 934-2801
<http://sacramentovalleyrefuges.fws.gov>

January 2006

- 13-15 Youth Fair, San Mateo International Sportsmen's Exposition, San Mateo County. (650) 574-3247, (800) 338-EXPO
www.sportsexpos.com www.sanmateoexpo.org
- 13-16 Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival, San Luis Obispo County. \$ 6am-7pm. (805) 772-4467 www.morro-bay.net/birds
www.morrobay.org
- 20-22 Youth Fair, Sacramento International Sportsmen's Exposition, Cal Expo, Sacramento County. www.sportsexpos.com
www.calexpo.com (916) 263-3000, (877) CALEXPO
- 27-29 San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival, Solano County. \$ (707) 557-9816 www.sfbayflywayfestival.com
- 27-29 Snow Goose Festival, Butte County. \$ (530) 345-1865 www.snowgoosefestival.org www.sacriverttrust.org

February 2006

- 10-12 San Diego Bird Festival, San Diego County. Free (619) 516-0139 www.sandiegonaturefestivals.org
- 11, 12 Junior Pheasant Hunt, San Luis Obispo County. Free (805) 238-4236 www.dfg.ca.gov
- 24-25 California Duck Days, Yolo County. \$ (530) 757-3780 www.yolobasin.org
- TBA Youth Waterfowl Hunt Days, balance of the state zone. Tentatively the weekend following the close of the regular season. (916) 445-3445 www.calwaterfowl.org, www.dfg.ca.gov

ARCHERY WILD PIG HUNTS AT LAKE SONOMA – 2005-06

Archery and crossbow hunting of feral pigs is permitted on about 10,000 acres of the US Army Corps of Engineer property near Geyserville. Lake Sonoma is about 70 miles north of San Francisco and west of Highway 101. There are many hundreds of pigs estimated to be on the property. Hunting began in October and will end for the season on the last day of March 2006.

Hunting is open Tuesday through Friday in October, everyday in November except Nov. 1, 12, 13, 19 and 20; and everyday in December, January, February and March.

Procedures: **All hunters check in at the visitor center by filling out a hunter information card located at the self-registration area of the visitor center.** Maps of the open hunting areas are attached to the self-registration cards. Hunters turn in half of the card on entering and half on checking out. Hunters are required to display a valid hunting license on their person while in the field and have pig tags with them. Pigs are the only species to be hunted, dogs may not be used and no firearms may be in your possession while at Lake Sonoma. Shooting hours are the legal shooting hours for big game from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Any questions should be directed to the **Lake Sonoma Visitor Center (707) 433-9483 Ext 27.**

Sandhill Crane Tours

Registrations for tours at the Isenberg (Woodbridge) Crane Reserve near Lodi are now available online at www.dfg.ca.gov/reg2/shcranetour/index.htm Public tours will be held all Sundays, 2nd Thursdays, and 2nd Saturdays of each month starting in October and running through February 2006, and are closed for the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's holidays. Tours involve very little walking and are wheelchair accessible. Tours are two hours long, starting about an hour and a half before sunset and ending at dusk to watch for the fly-in of cranes. The area is crane capital of California, hosting the largest numbers of greater sandhill cranes, a threatened species in California. Swans, ducks, geese, hawks, herons, owls and other wildlife are often seen on these tours led by docent naturalists.

To register, send a self-addressed/stamped envelope and a note stating name, complete address, phone number, 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice of tour dates, and number of adults in party. Children are welcome on tours, and an \$8 donation is requested from each adult. Please make a check payable to the California Wildlife Foundation. Send registration and check to Crane Tours, California Department of Fish & Game, 1701 Nimbus Rd., Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. For the most current information about the Crane Tours, call (916) 358-2869.

The 9th annual Sandhill Crane Festival held in Lodi will be on November 4-6. Enjoy wildlife tours, family activities, photography show, workshops, music & dance performances, and other activities. For more information about the festival, visit or call 209-367-7840.

FALL 2005 AND SPRING 2006 TURKEY SEASONS

The **Fall 2005 wild turkey season** is 16 days in length - **November 12 through November 27, 2005**. The fall bag limit will be **1 turkey, either sex, per day and 1 per season**.

The **Spring 2006 wild turkey season** will be from **March 25- April 30, 2006**. The bag limit is **1 bearded turkey per day, 3 per season** (A bearded turkey is one that has a beard visible through the breast feathers.).

The shooting hours for all upland game birds (including fall turkey season), except for pheasants and spring wild turkey season, **shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset**. The shooting hours for pheasants shall be from 8:00 a.m. to sunset. **The shooting hours for the spring wild turkey season shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to 4:00 p.m.**

Forecast - Nesting and brood survival appears to be high. Numerous large broods of young birds are being seen throughout northern California. Turkey hunting this fall and next spring should be good due to the 2005 wet spring weather.

Places to Hunt:

Spenceville Wildlife Area (11,213 acres) and **Daugherty Hill WA** (4,200 acres) -Type C areas -Both WA's are 20 miles east of Marysville. No permits needed for the fall turkey season. Permits issued by drawing at the DFG, Region 2 office for Sat., Sun., and Wed., for the first 9 days of spring turkey season. For maps call the DFG at (916) 358-2900.

Feather River Wildlife Area - Type C areas -Units are located 23-28 miles north of Sacramento on both sides of the Feather River. This WA is occasionally flooded during spring turkey season. The **Lake of the Woods Unit** (700 acres) is located 25 miles north of Sacramento and 10 miles south of Marysville on Feather River Boulevard. Access is south from the Star Bend Fishing Access. The **Nelson Slough Unit** (800 acres) is located 23 miles north of Sacramento, 17 miles south of Yuba City and under the Highway 99 Feather River Bridge. Access is east or west on Sacramento Avenue. The **O'Connor Lake's Unit** (471 acres) and the **Abbott Lake Unit** (439 acres) are 30 miles north of Sacramento and 10 miles south of Yuba City at the east end of Star Bend Road. Park on top of the levee at the end of Star Bend Road. Waterfowl, rabbit, quail, dove, tree squirrel, pheasant, wild turkey, coyote, crow, and deer hunting are available. Shotguns and archery equipment only. For maps call DFG at (916) 358-2900

Auburn State Recreation Area (30,000 acres) - South of Interstate 80 near Auburn. Hunting is allowed from Sept. 1 to Jan. 31 and spring turkey season. Only shotguns, rifles or bows and arrows may be used. Popular game species include deer, valley quail, dove, band-tailed pigeon and wild turkey. Write the Auburn State RA, CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation, 501 El Dorado St., Auburn, CA 95603 or call (916) 885-4527/988-0205 for maps and information.

Black Butte Reservoir (8000 acres) - 25 miles west of Chico via Highway 32 and Newville Road. Waterfowl, quail, dove, pheasant, turkey, deer and wild pig are available. For info and a map contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 19225 Newville Road, Orland, CA 95963 or call (916) 865-4781.

Paynes Creek Area (17,000 acres of blue oak woodland and riparian forest, many creeks) - Hunting daily during hunting seasons - Located between Cottonwood and Red Bluff. Dove, quail, turkeys and waterfowl are available. For further info contact the BLM in Redding at (530) 224-2100.

Tehama Wildlife Area (44,601 acres) - Type C area - Open for hunting all year except for the southern portion of the wildlife area, south of Hogsback Road, which is closed to public entry from February 1 to the first Saturday in April for the purpose of not disturbing wintering deer. The wildlife area is generally open to all hunting except for the G-1 Late Season Buck Hunt for Zone C-4. G-1 USE PERMITS are issued by drawing for that season which generally begins the 4th Saturday in October and extends for 9 days. No pig hunting except during April/May by USE PERMIT only. Access: Headquarters is located 23 miles east of Red Bluff via Highway 36 and south on Plum Creek Road. Hogsback Road enters the wildlife area 16 miles east of Red Bluff. Best turkey hunting areas are Plum and Oak Creeks, and De-haven Gulch. For info and a map call (530) 597-2201.

Lake Oroville State Recreation Area - Hunting daily from September 15 through January 31 and during the spring wild turkey season(when only turkeys may be hunted) - (4,150 acres) - 7 miles east of Oroville via Hwy 162; boat access to much of the area. The majority of the Recreation Area lands consist of a narrow strip surrounding Oroville Lake extending a minimum of 300 feet from the high water line to one-half mile or more in some areas. Some U.S. Forest Service and BLM lands adjoin the Recreation Area. CA and mtn quail, wild turkey, band-tailed pigeon, rabbits, squirrels and pheasant are also available. No waterfowl or deer hunting allowed. Hunting on or from the water surface of Lake Oroville is prohibited. For a map contact the Lake Oroville State Recreation Area, 400 Glen Drive, Oroville, CA 95966 or call (916) 538-2200 or 538-2219.

El Dorado National Forest - 15 miles east of Placerville. Park Creek Road, Silver Lake Road, and Iron Mountain Road access the ridges on the east and south sides of Jenkinson Lake. The property immediately surrounding Jenkinson Lake is private. For a map contact the El Dorado NF Info Center, 3070 Camino Heights Drive, Camino CA 95709 or call (916) 644-6048.

New Hogan Lake (400 acres) - 30 miles east of Stockton. For a map contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 2713 Hogan Dam Blvd., Valley Springs, CA 95252 or call (209) 772-1343.

Lake Sonoma - 14 miles west of Healdsburg. Fall and spring turkey hunting by reservation only. For information contact the DFG, Region 3 at 707 944-5500. No other hunting allowed.

Mendocino NF east of Covelo (Mendocino County) and in the Lake Pillsbury area (Lake County). For a map contact the Mendocino NF, 420 East Laurel St., Willows, CA 95988 or call (916) 934-3316.

Cache Creek Wildlife Area (3,860 acre of DFG land) and **Cache Creek Management Area** (85,000 acres of BLM land) in Lake, Yolo and Colusa Counties.

Indian Valley Wildlife Area (1,600 acres of DFG land) and **Indian Valley Management Area** (50,000 acres of BLM land) in Lake and Colusa Counties.

Cow Mountain Recreation Area (50,000 acres of BLM land) in Lake and Mendocino Counties.

Cedar Roughs Area (About 6,500 acres of BLM and DFG land in 2 blocks in Napa County).

Boggs Mountain State Forest on Hwy 29 near Hobergs; 3,393 acres of mixed coniferous forest.

See the QUAIL SEASON article for detailed descriptions about the Cache Creek WA, Indian Valley WA, Cow Mountain RA, Cedar Roughs Area and the Boggs Mtn SF.

National Forests in the Sierras Nevada Mtns.- The lower elevation areas sometimes have turkeys. Purchase a National Forest map and hike the lowest elevation areas looking for turkey sign in the oak groves.

Oroville Wildlife Area (11,871 acres) - West side of Oroville CA. Spring turkey hunting by reservation only. No fall turkey hunting on this area. Waterfowl, rabbit, quail, dove, tree squirrel, chukar, bobwhite, coyote, crow, and deer hunting are also available. For maps call DFG at (916) 358-2900.

Editors Note - If you notice any errors or omissions with this article, please call 530 743-5068 and leave a message with the name of the article and the comment.

SPECIAL 2005 FALL WILD TURKEY HUNTS SCHEDULED AT LAKE MENDOCINO

A weekend junior and weekend general wild turkey hunt, by permit only, are scheduled for the Fall 2005 turkey season at Lake Mendocino Wildlife Area east of Ukiah. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers is providing this hunting opportunity in cooperation with the California Department of Fish and Game. Six hunters will be drawn for each weekend hunt. One hunt will be a General Hunt and the other a Junior Hunt.

Access: Boat-in or walk-in access. There is a boat-in camp area within the hunt area. No vehicles or horse-in hunting will be allowed. **Check In:** All successful applicants **must check in** at the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Park Office, 1160 Lake Mendocino Drive, Ukiah, CA 95482-9404, **prior to their hunt.** **Take Method:** Shotgun or air rifles firing pellets and powered by compressed air or gas (0.20 caliber minimum) only.

General Hunt: Saturday\Sunday, November 12 and 13. Applicants drawn for the general hunt must have a California hunting license and upland game bird stamp. No more than two hunters may apply together on one application.

Junior Hunt: Saturday\Sunday, November 19 and 20. Youth hunters must possess a junior hunting license and must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult at least 18 years old. It is suggested that the adult have a hunting license or be familiar with hunting for appropriate supervision. No more than two junior hunters may apply together on one application.

Applications: Submit a standard Postal Service size post card (one or two hunters per card) with name, mailing address, telephone number, hunting license number, boat registration number (CF) or vessel description if exempt from registration, and indicating **Junior** or **General** hunt. Incomplete applications or applications not following these guidelines will be disqualified from the drawing. Drawing deadline: Monday, October 31, 2005.

Mail to: Department of Fish and Game, Lake Mendocino Fall Turkey Hunt, P.O. Box 602, Willits, CA 95490
Successful applicants will be notified by mail. Additional information and a map of the hunt area will be included.

SPECIAL 2005-2006 TURKEY HUNTS SCHEDULED AT LAKE SONOMA

2005-2006 Hunts: There are four, 2-day turkey hunts scheduled for the 2005-06 season. Two hunts are scheduled for the fall of 2005, and two hunts for the spring of 2006.

Ten hunters will be drawn for each hunt, and each hunter can take one (1) hunting guest. Junior hunters must possess a junior hunting license, and can take either another licensed junior hunter or a licensed adult hunter. Two junior hunters must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult.

FALL 2005 TURKEY HUNTS:

Liberty Glen: Junior Hunt: Saturday/Sunday, November 12 and 13, 2005

Yorty Creek: Adult Hunt: Saturday/Sunday, November 19 and 20, 2005

Drawing: All applications must be received in the Yountville Regional Office by 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 27, 2005. The drawing will be held on Friday, October 28, 2005.

SPRING 2006 TURKEY HUNTS:

Liberty Glen: Adult Hunt: Saturday/Sunday, April 8 and 9, 2006

Yorty Creek: Junior Hunt: Saturday/Sunday, April 1 and 2, 2006

Drawing: All applications must be received in the Yountville Regional Office by 5:00 p.m. Thursday, March 16, 2006. The drawing will be held on Friday, March 17, 2006.

Applications: Applicants may **apply for only one hunt day in each season.** Submit a standard Postal Service size postcard (one name per card) with: **Name, Address, Telephone #, Hunting license #, and hunt day requested.** Send applications to: *Lake Sonoma Turkey Hunt, P. O. Box 47, Yountville, CA 94599.* Successful applicants will be notified by mail.

Turkey Hunt Success 2004-05: The two-day turkey hunts for 2004-05 resulted in 48 hunters taking 18 wild turkeys, with an overall success rate of 27%. Junior hunters took 8 turkeys for 27 hunters or 30% success, and 21 adult hunters took 10 for 48% success. These hunts remain very popular with hunters.

Pig Hunting at Lake Sonoma -The Corps is allowing pig hunting with archery and crossbow and their hunt schedules are available at (707) 433-9483 x 20. See article in this edition. 27

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Included on your mailing label is the expiration date for your subscription to Wing Beat News. You can renew via postcard to the address below or send us an email at glwla@dfg.ca.gov. If you do not renew your subscription to this newsletter before that date, your name will be dropped from our mailing list. Thank you for continued enthusiasm for this publication and support of it's production by purchasing your Upland Game Stamp!

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Note Expiration Date

